

BUYER'S GUIDE ▶ SUPPRESSORS ▶ LASERS ▶ UPERS ▶ RAILS ▶ OPTICS

# BLACK GUNS

## 2016

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BARRELS  
FACT VS.  
FICTION

Bravo RECCE-18  
w/ Nightforce NXS  
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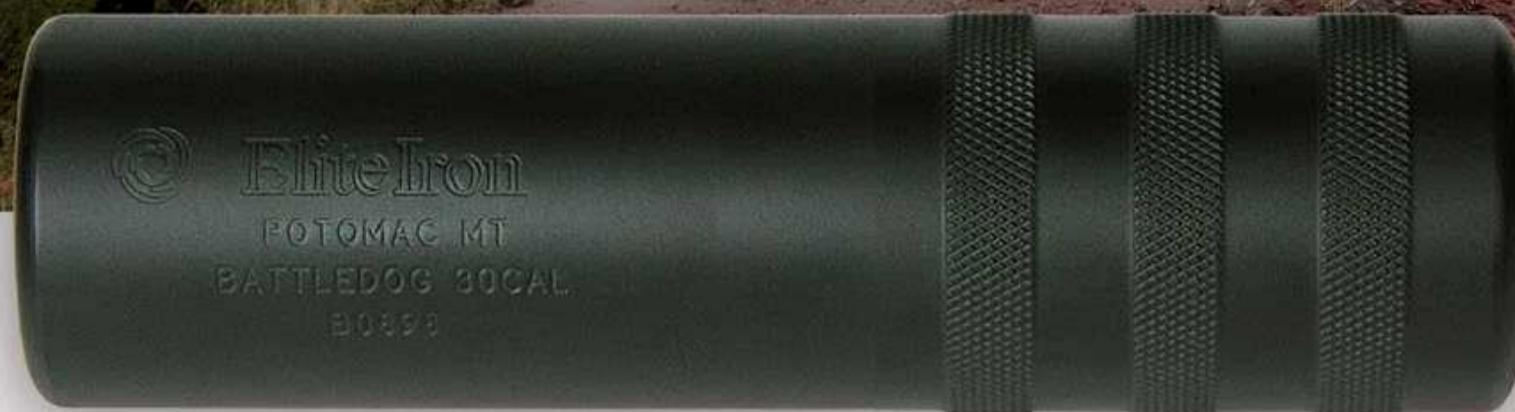
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1345 Thunders Trail, Potomac, MT 59823  
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# AN AMERICAN ICON

While in decades past the iconic American rifle may have been a classic bolt-action .30-06 Springfield or a trusty .30-30 lever action, the rifle of today's America is the AR-15 and its many siblings and offshoots. With a decades-long pedigree of military service and the commensurate refinement and adaptation that come with it, the AR of today proudly carries on the traditions of the 7.62mm NATO Armalite AR-10 and the later 5.56mm NATO AR-15 that blazed this trail.

But why is it so popular? To be honest, it does not take a lot of in-depth research to answer this question. The AR possesses many fine qualities, not the least of which are exceptional accuracy potential and a broad array of available upgrades and accessories. Want to buy a bone-stock AR that combines a good price point with impressive performance? Your local gun shop should be able to help you out easily with that goal. Want to build a custom variant detailed exactly to your needs and wants, whether it be anything from an ultra-light variant to a heavy-duty long-range precision rifle? With the help of reputable online retailers such as Bravo Company USA, you can check this box with ease.

And fans of the AR are not limited to traditional variants that are direct descendants of the first ARs. Not a fan of the standard direct gas impingement system of operation? Then take a look at the numerous piston-operated variants available today from a range of reputable manufacturers. Want the excellent ergonomics of an AR, but combined with today's most cutting-edge features? Then take a look at modular examples, such as the multi-caliber LMT rifle and Ruger's new switch-barrel SR-556. Want to shave some weight without losing performance? Then read on about the benefits of carbon-fiber barrel systems for your AR.

Are you a new shooter looking to add a basic but reliable 5.56mm AR to your collection without breaking the bank? Options such as the Ruger AR-556 and the Del-Ton Extreme Duty should fit the bill. Want to expand beyond the traditional 5.56mm and add some "oomph" to your next AR? Then take a look at optional chamberings in this classic platform, ranging from 300 Blackout all the way to .458 SOCOM. If you need a specialized AR for a specialized role, there is an option out there for you.

But when it comes to the subject of today's "black guns," your choices are not limited to just the AR. In fact, you have numerous other options from both domestic and foreign manufacturers. Want cutting-edge Swiss design and performance in a modular, multi-caliber platform? Then take a look at the new Sig Sauer SIG556xi. Want ultra-compact dimensions with full-sized power? Then take a look at the newest Steyr AUG A3/M1. How about adding one heck of a conversation piece to your collection? Then consider the new M249S SAW from FN, a semi-automatic variant of this battle-proven, belt-fed warfighter.

We are fortunate these days in that there are many, many options out there in the "black gun" realm. From retro classics to cutting-edge performers, there is something out there for you. And, once you have your perfect rifle, you will need to choose the right accessories to maximize its potential. Have no fear—our thorough and informative "buyer's guide" sections on optics, stocks, sights, suppressors and more will get you pointed in the right direction for finding what you need.

We hope you enjoy reading this issue of *Black Guns* as much as we enjoyed putting it together. By digging through these pages, following up with some research and going hands-on with gear when possible, you should be able to put together your ideal black gun and gear setup. —*Michael O. Humphries*

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**Publisher**  
Stanley R. Harris

**Group Publisher**  
Shirley Steffen

**Associate Publisher**  
Karin Levine

**Art Director**  
James Allocca

**Managing Editor**  
Michael O. Humphries

**Cover Design**  
Socrates Gomez

**Assistant Editors**  
Ryan Pasquale, Greg Lickenbrock

**Editorial Assistant**  
Richard Ortega

**Field Contributors**  
Jorge Amselle, David Bahde, Will Dabbs, MD, Rob Garrett, Robert Jordan, Richard L. Johnson, Alex Landeen, Doug Larson, Andy Massimilian, D.K. Pridgen, Robert A. Sadowski, Sean Utley, Steve Woods

**Advertising Sales**  
Leticia Henry

**Advertising Coordinator**  
Emily Boland

**Social Media Director**  
Claudia Bircu

**Circulation Director**  
Tim Hannon

**Advertising Production Manager**  
Ivis C. Fundichely

**Director Digital and Mobile Publishing**  
Kim Shay

Send editorial queries to  
[tactical-life@harris-pub.com](mailto:tactical-life@harris-pub.com)

Harris Tactical Group  
can be reached at:  
Phone: 212-807-7100; Fax: 212-463-9958  
[tactical-life.com](http://tactical-life.com) • [harris-pub.com](http://harris-pub.com)

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[dealer.sales@harris-pub.com](mailto:dealer.sales@harris-pub.com)

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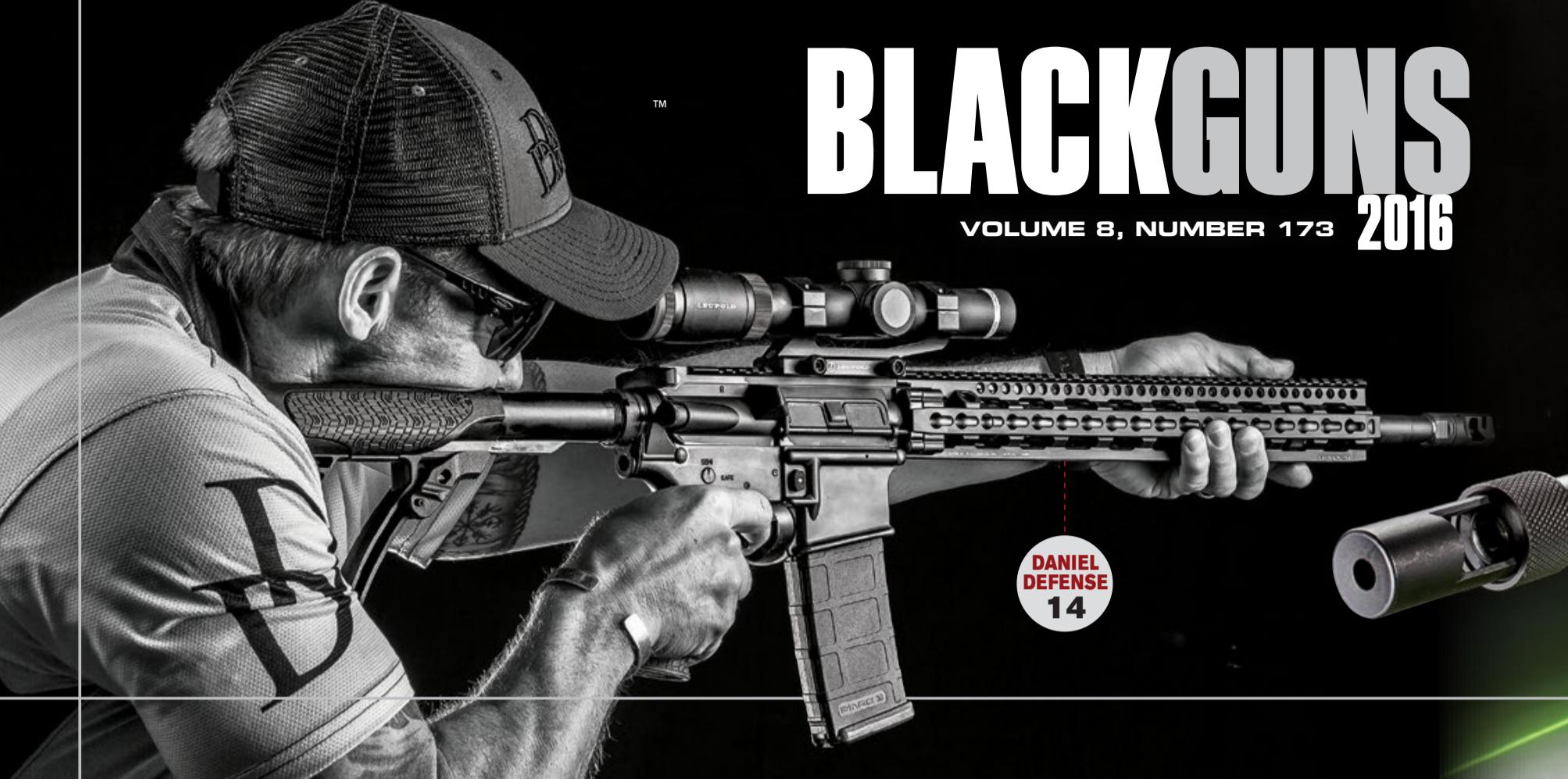


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# ■ BRAVO COMPANY'S

# ELITE



## BCM sets the standard for hard-use ARs with its RECCE series and ultra-tough carbines!

BY DAVID BAHDE

**Bravo Company Manufacturing (BCM) has worked very hard to earn a reputation for building rifles designed for real-world applications.**

Professional operators have tested BCM rifles under the harshest conditions. With a reputation for functioning when other designs have long since given up, they have earned the respect of some of the harshest critics. Simple, light, rugged and reliable, they are exactly what many want in a duty or self-defense rifle.

After having tested hundreds of ARs over the years, I can say that BCM's rifles and carbines are among the few that just never seem to fail, no matter what. If it comes from BCM, it just works—short term or long term, it doesn't matter, and that is saying quite a bit these days.

All of the RECCE rifles start with forged 7075-T6 receivers. The internals are all mil-spec and feature parts hardened to USGI specifications. All bolts are machined from Carpenter No. 158 steel and are both high-pressure tested and magnetic-particle inspected. The barrel extensions use M4-style feed ramps with chrome-lined bores and USGI 5.56mm NATO chambers. RECCE upper receivers are T-marked and use BCMGUNFIGHTER Mod 4 charging handles.





Bravo's new RECCE-18 offers an 18-inch barrel, a KeyMod handguard and much more. Shown with a LaserMax LMS-GEN-RVP and a Nightforce NXS 1-4x24mm riflescope.

**“ Every BCM rifle I've ever tested has been accurate, and this new version was no exception. ”**



ALG Defense triggers are standard, as are hardened, mil-spec safeties. BCM includes USGI H-series buffers that use M4-style springs. The rifles' gas keys are staked using Grade 8 hardened bolts. Each is assembled with the greatest care and attention to detail. The company's latest offering in the RECCE series features an 18-inch barrel.

## TACTICAL EXTREMES

The new RECCE-18 features a 1-in-8-inch-twist, 410 stainless steel, 18-inch barrel that's capped with a Mod 0 compensator. My test rifle was equipped with an OPS Inc muzzle brake and a mount designed to accept that company's 12th Model SPR MBS suppressor. Designed for precision rifles, it is currently fielded on a number of Special Purpose Rifles (SPR). A 13-inch KMR rail covers the barrel and rifle-length gas system. Without the suppressor, the brake provides positive recoil control along with flash suppression.

A BCMGUNFIGHTER Stock and a Mod 1 pistol grip are used on the RECCE-18, along with an extended triggerguard. Flip-up sights manufactured by Diamondhead were also used during testing. The rifle itself is coated in a gray Cerakote finish. Given this rifle's design, a U.S. Optics SR8C 1-8x scope using a Horus H50 reticle was installed. This optic fits perfectly into the SPR role, allowing accuracy at the limits of the 5.56mm cartridge, along with holds for fast target acquisition at range. An Atlas bipod was attached using the supplied KeyMod aluminum rail.

## ON THE RANGE

Every BCM rifle I've ever tested has been accurate, and this new version



### BCM RECCE-18

#### Specifications

<b>Caliber:</b>	5.56mm NATO
<b>Barrel:</b>	18 inches
<b>OA Length:</b>	34 inches
<b>Weight:</b>	7 pounds (empty)
<b>Stock:</b>	BCMGUNFIGHTER
<b>Sights:</b>	None
<b>Action:</b>	Direct impingement semi-auto
<b>Finish:</b>	Grey Cerakote
<b>Capacity:</b>	30+1
<b>MSRP:</b>	\$1,699

#### Performance

Load	Velocity	Accuracy
Barnes 69 Precision Match	2,900	0.52
Barnes VOR-TX 70 TSX	2,877	0.60
Black Hills 77 TMK	2,730	1.10
Silver State Armory 77 OTM	2,675	0.95
Winchester 69 Match	2,950	0.58

*Bullet weight measured in grains, velocity in fps by chronograph and accuracy in inches for best five-shot groups at 100 yards.*

was no exception. It's as accurate as an AR is going to get, at least one that works in harsh conditions. Even with a 5.56mm NATO chamber, the RECCE-18 put all test ammo into groups around 1 inch, with most closer to half that. In fact, Barnes' new VOR-TX 70-grain TSX load shot into a 0.60-inch group. This bullet is preferred by many professionals these days for duty or self-defense, and this rifle shot it well.

When it comes to target bullets, the new Barnes Precision Match 69-grain OTM grouped the best with a 0.52-inch group. What's more, four of the five of those rounds fell under 0.40 inches. Moving to the heavier bullets, and the new Black Hills 77 Grain TMK, the RECCE-18 performed admirably, putting everything in groups at just over an inch. If accuracy at range is what you are looking for, this rifle will take care of it.

On the long range, the RECCE-18 was stretched out to 500 yards using the H50 reticle in the U.S. Optics scope and

**“...the RECCE-18 put all test ammo into groups around 1 inch, with most closer to HALF THAT. ”**

the 77-grain TMK ammo. After confirming zero at 100 meters, steel was engaged at 200 to 500 meters. Given correct wind estimation, the rifle was dead on and hits on 10-inch steel were almost easy. Moving around the bench, barricade and truck on the course, I found this rifle to be pretty handy.

This was my first opportunity to use the BCMGUNFIGHTER Stock, and it is very well designed. Lying in prone, your support hand does not accidentally activate the stock, which is a really nice touch. The same was true for shooting on the bench or table. Rail space is plentiful on this rifle for lasers, lights and night-vision devices. If those are not available, the rifle remains light and very well balanced. Deploying it as an SPR, I found the rifle to be excellent in this role, and the U.S. Optics scope was about perfect.

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**“...the Jack Carbine has proven itself as a hard-working carbine that's perfect for duty, self-defense or combat operations. ”**

### Specifications

#### RECCE-14

Caliber:	5.56mm NATO
Barrel:	14.5 inches
OA Length:	32 inches
Weight:	6.4 pounds
Stock:	BCMGUNFIGHTER
Sights:	None
Action:	Direct impingement semi-auto
Finish:	KG GunKote FDE or Foliage Green
Capacity:	30+1
MSRP:	\$1,450



#### RECCE-16

Caliber:	5.56mm NATO
Barrel:	16 inches
OA Length:	33 inches
Weight:	6.6 pounds
Stocks:	BCMGUNFIGHTER
Sights:	None
Action:	Direct impingement semi-auto
Finish:	Matte black, Dark Bronze Cerakote
Capacity:	30+1
MSRP:	\$1,475



#### BCM HALEY STRATEGIC JACK CARBINE

Caliber:	5.56mm NATO
Barrel:	14.5 inches
OA Length:	32 inches
Weight:	6.7 pounds
Stock:	B5 SOPMOD Bravo
Sights:	Flip-up Battle Sights
Action:	Direct impingement semi-auto
Finish:	Disruptive Gray Cerakote
Capacity:	30+1
MSRP:	\$2,195



At closer ranges, the RECCE-18 is fast on target and smooth when transitioning to the next target. Remove the bipod and it works well in close quarters. Turning the U.S. Optics down to 1x, the H50 reticle turns into a circle. Turn on the LED and it operates just like a red dot.

As expected, reliability was flawless, with no failures to extract, eject or feed experienced during testing. Accuracy was excellent with target and duty rounds, keeping it real-world capable. Take this rifle out of the box, add optics and your preferred accessories and it is ready to go on day one—that's about all you can ask for from an AR.

#### BUILT TO LAST

BCM also offers the RECCE in 14.5- and 16-inch-barreled versions. Both models use the standard RECCE features, including hardened parts that have undergone full MPI and HPT testing. BCM-GUNFIGHTER stocks and pistol grips are also used.

The RECCE-14 uses a standard profile, 14.5-inch barrel with a mid-length gas system. Permanently attaching the BCM-GUNFIGHTER Mod 1 Compensator brings the rifle to a BATFE-compliant 16.1 inches. It can be configured using a Centurion C4 or a 12-inch KMR rail. Available coated in Flat Dark Earth or Foliage Green, it is the most compact of the RECCE series.

Moving to the RECCE-16, the standard, government-profiled barrel is stretched out to 16 inches and the Mod 0 Compensator is threaded using 1/2x28 TPI. The compensator is removable for use with suppressors or other muzzle devices. Coated in Dark Bronze

Cerakote, this rifle is ready for anything you can throw at it.

#### COMBAT CARBINES

The BCM Haley Strategic Jack Carbine was designed in collaboration with Travis Haley, the owner of Haley Strategic, and it represents the cutting edge of combat-ready carbines. BCM's proven 14.5-inch, 11595E barrel uses a permanently attached BCM Mod 1 Compensator. Geissele's SMR MK1 free-floated rail provides rail space and a solid handhold. The BCM-GUNFIGHTER Pistol Grip and Charging Handle are also featured on the design. B5 Systems' SOPMOD Bravo stocks help connect you with the rifle, and BCM's folding front and rear sights are built by Troy Industries to help keep you on target. The Thorntail Mount from Impact Weapons Components holds an Inforce WML-HSP tactical light. Using an ALG trigger, the rifle is coated in a Disruptive Grey Cerakote finish. Tested under severe conditions, the Jack Carbine has proven itself as a hard-working carbine that's perfect for duty, self-defense or combat operations.

BCM continues to build some of the best rifles, upper assemblies and accessories on the market. In fact, many factory and custom rifles use the company's rails, grips, stocks, sights and accessories. Professionals around the world choose BCM's uppers and rifles consistently when reliability under any condition is imperative. Given the company's no-nonsense, professional attitude, work ethic and attention to detail, a BCM rifle just may be the last one you ever need or want. For more information, visit bravocompanyusa.com or call 877-272-8626.

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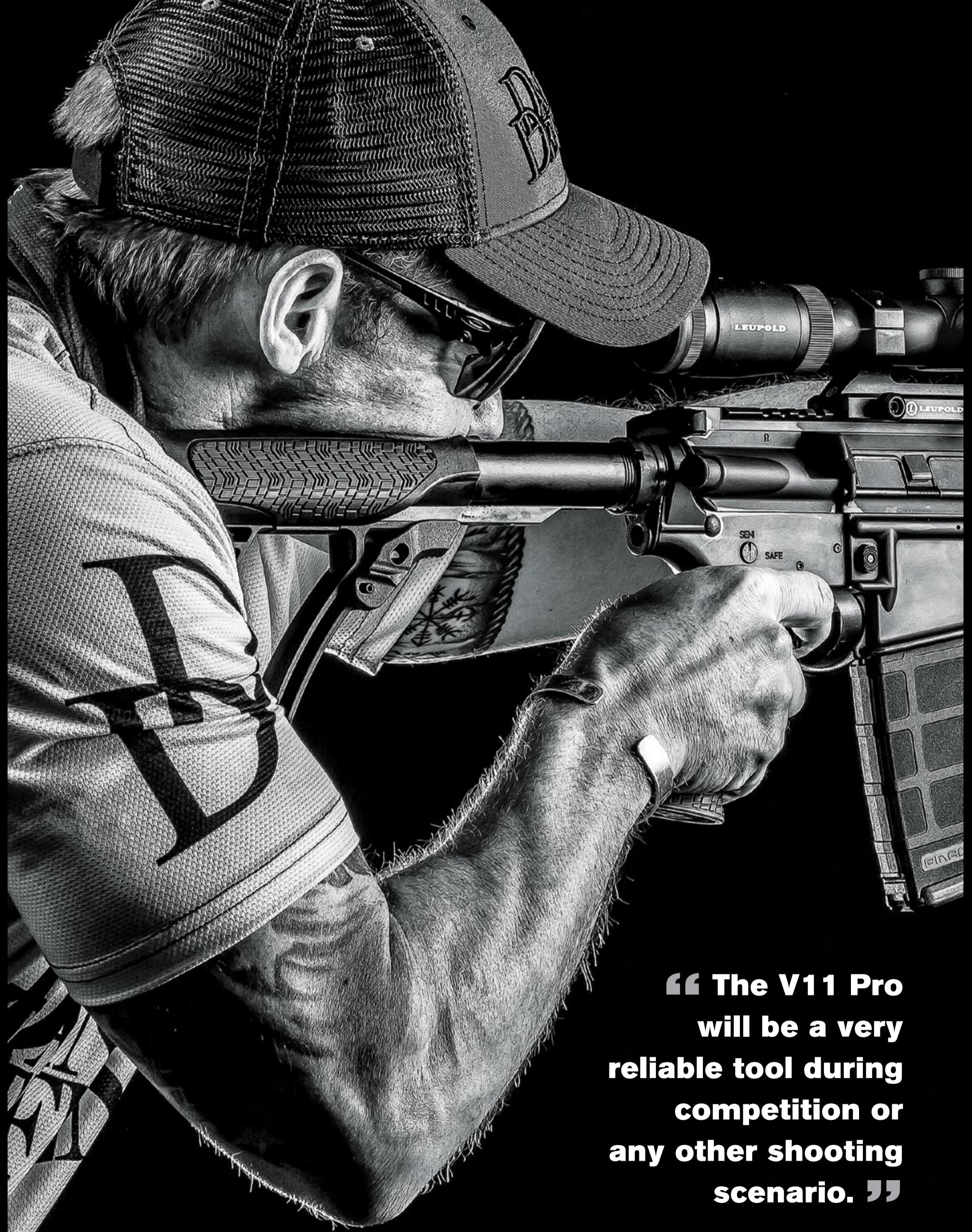
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**“ The V11 Pro  
will be a very  
reliable tool during  
competition or  
any other shooting  
scenario. ”**

# ULTIMATE 5.56 CHAMPIONS



**Daniel Defense's top-tier ARs  
deliver what it takes to win!**

BY SEAN UTLEY

## There are certain firearms manufacturers that are always on the top of the “must-have” list.

Daniel Defense is one of those companies. No matter whom I talk to, when Daniel Defense is mentioned, the opinion is always positive. Daniel Defense is an industry leader in development of all things AR, and it continues to bring exciting new products and enhancements to market.

Last year, Daniel Defense launched its V11 series, which features the company's newest lightweight KeyMod rail. This series of rifles has been very popular for Daniel Defense since its release, and the company has responded by enhancing and expanding the lineup.

With the growing popularity of 3-Gun competitions, Daniel Defense has identified room for expansion and another venue for its mil-spec rifles. The V11 Pro goes beyond the 16-inch barrel of the standard V11 and adds an 18-inch, cold-hammer-forged barrel. Daniel Defense believes in the benefits of hammer forging and invested in machines of its own to churn out these durable and very accurate components. This 18-inch barrel features a 1-in-7-inch twist rate and is salt-bath nitrided. A rifle-length gas system is onboard, making the V11 Pro a real gem to shoot. After putting some rounds downrange with the V11 Pro, I found it quite comfortable, smooth and controllable.

It's amazing how good an AR can be when it is built to run using the properly tuned gas system.

Daniel Defense's new 15-inch SLiM Rail provides a rock-solid mounting platform out front. The company's popularity arose from, if nothing else, its excellent quad-rail design, and it has transferred that same excellence into these KeyMod-style SLiM Rails, which stands for “slim,” “lightweight” and “modular.” It satisfies all designations. The SLiM rail achieves its intended goals while keeping that familiar Daniel Defense look and feel. It is extremely light yet offers a strong and precise “one-piece” feel.

In fact, it feels as if the V11 Pro rifle were machined all from one piece. Not all ARs are able to achieve this. The rail's 15-inch length allows the shooter to get their support hand out closer to the muzzle. This allows you to get more leverage out front so that you can drive the gun from target to target. KeyMod's thinness, cleanliness and lack of “biting” Picatinny slots is immediately evident. Should you opt to use your V11 Pro for general shooting, the SLiM Rail will continue to shine, especially with the assortment of Daniel Defense's accessories for the KeyMod rail. Accessory attachment locations are in the 3, 6 and 9 o'clock positions on this rail, and everything from Harris bipod adaptors to weapon light mounts are available directly from Daniel Defense.

The company didn't stop there, however. It has also outfitted the V11 Pro with a Geissele Super Dynamic 3 Gun



Trigger. This trigger is amazing with a very light and short trigger pull and equally short reset. The V11 Pro Series comes with two different springs: a 3-pound black one that is installed and a 4.5-gold one. The trigger face is flat and should allow for consistent trigger manipulation. The Dynamic 3 Gun Trigger is meant for rapid-fire shooting in a competition setting.

Although there is already a soft-shooting, rifle-length gas system, Daniel Defense has looked to further decrease recoil effects on the shooter by offering a muzzle device of its own design, the Muzzle Climb Mitigator, which comes standard on the V11 Pro. It is the company's second iteration of the device, and it's designed to improve performance over the previous model.

Inside the receiver is Daniel Defenses' consistent, straightforward approach of mil-spec internals, including MP-/HP-tested parts, a staked gas key and an H-buffer. It also features a BCM Gunfighter Mod 4 charging handle. This formula means that the V11 Pro will be a very effective tool during competition or any other shooting scenario. Daniel Defense's glass-filled polymer pistol grip and ad-

justable buttstock finish off the V11 Pro's hard-use features. These pieces feature "soft touch" overmolding and have a great feel. I personally think this buttstock is one of the better-feeling stocks on the market.

### SLIM OPERATOR

While the DDM4 carbine is the standard offering from Daniel Defense, its roots lie in the V9 series, which was extremely popular and it's easy to see why. The M4V11 has a free-floating, 16-inch, government-profile, chrome moly, cold-hammer-forged barrel. Barrel twist doesn't change from the 1-in-7-inch twist rate that appears in the all of the company's 5.56mm-chambered barrels. The 16-inch length is pretty standard fare and the most popular with shooters, generating acceptable, effective velocities. Daniel Defense's cold-hammer-forged barrels have always been extremely accurate. Sub-MOA accuracy from your standard, off-the-shelf DDM4 carbine shouldn't come as a surprise. Performance like this typically comes from several different types of ammo as well. The barrel on the M4V11 is given a Daniel Defense 17-4 PH stainless steel Flash Suppressor,

which is salt-bath nitrided, instead of the Muzzle Climb Mitigator.

The upper receiver is machined from 7075-T6 aluminum and reliability is ensured with M4-style feed ramps. The handguard is the same 15-inch SLIM Rail that appears on the V11 Pro, which means there is plenty of room for you to get a hold of the M4V11 during operation. It also means there is plenty of room to add Daniel Defense's own brand of KeyMod accessories, like its offset flashlight

**“After putting some rounds downrange with the V11 Pro, I found it quite comfortable, smooth and controllable. ”**

mount, bipod adaptor and reversible QD swivel attachment point. The company also makes a 1 o'clock offset rail as well. The rifle's mil-spec lower is machined from the same 7075-T6 aluminum as the upper and gets a mil-spec trigger with a break of roughly 6 to 8 pounds.

Further adding to the already attractive nature of the M4V11's feature set is its gray-toned Tornado Cerakote finish. Black guns are cool, but grey guns are even cooler. The M4V11's components can more than back up the performance claims of Daniel Defense, and adding this awesome color only makes this carbine more desirable. The Tornado doesn't just look good, it is also an anti-reflective finish that is also more durable than other coatings on the market and very resistant to heat.

### LIGHTWEIGHT COMBO

Looking for something that offers all of the benefits of the M4V11 but in a lighter package? Then look no further than the DDM4V11LW (Lightweight) and DDM4V11SLW (Short Lightweight). These offerings feature all of the reliable mil-spec components of the V11 series, but with a couple of differences.

The Lightweight comes with a thin, free-floated, lightweight-profile barrel. This 16-inch, cold-hammer-forged barrel still features all the excellent specs of the

### Specifications

#### DDM4V11 PRO

<b>Caliber:</b>	5.56mm NATO
<b>Barrel:</b>	18 inches
<b>OA Length:</b>	34.75-37.87 inches
<b>Weight:</b>	7.53 pounds
<b>Stock:</b>	Collapsible
<b>Sights:</b>	None
<b>Acton:</b>	Direct impingement semi-auto
<b>Finish:</b>	Matte black
<b>Capacity:</b>	30+1
<b>MSRP:</b>	\$1,849

#### DDM4V11

<b>Caliber:</b>	5.56mm NATO
<b>Barrel:</b>	16 inches
<b>OA Length:</b>	32.25-35.87 inches
<b>Weight:</b>	6.28 pounds
<b>Stock:</b>	Collapsible
<b>Sights:</b>	None
<b>Acton:</b>	Direct impingement semi-auto
<b>Finish:</b>	Tornado Cerakote
<b>Capacity:</b>	30+1
<b>MSRP:</b>	\$1,729

#### DDM4V11LW

<b>Caliber:</b>	5.56mm NATO
<b>Barrel:</b>	16 inches
<b>OA Length:</b>	32.25-35.87 inches
<b>Weight:</b>	6.15 pounds
<b>Stock:</b>	Collapsible
<b>Sights:</b>	None
<b>Acton:</b>	Direct impingement semi-auto
<b>Finish:</b>	Matte black
<b>Capacity:</b>	30+1
<b>MSRP:</b>	\$1,599

#### DDM4V11SLW

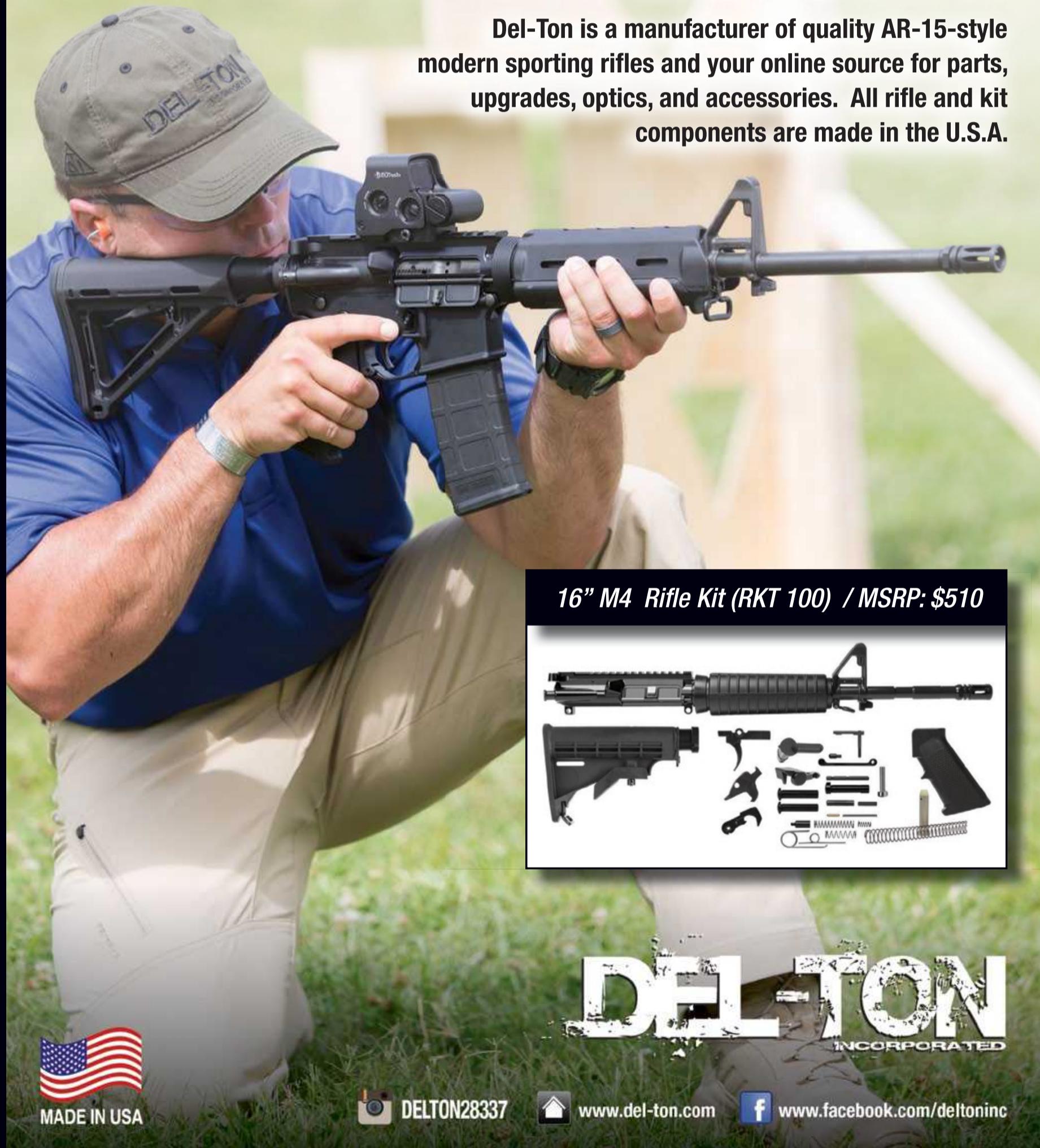
<b>Caliber:</b>	5.56mm NATO
<b>Barrel:</b>	14.5 inches
<b>OA Length:</b>	31.5-34.75 inches
<b>Weight:</b>	6.09 pounds
<b>Stock:</b>	Collapsible
<b>Sights:</b>	None
<b>Acton:</b>	Direct impingement semi-auto
<b>Finish:</b>	Matte black
<b>Capacity:</b>	30+1
<b>MSRP:</b>	\$1,669

# DIY

Some folks just like to do things for themselves.

For those of you who do, Del-Ton has a complete line of rifle kits to fit any need or budget.

Del-Ton is a manufacturer of quality AR-15-style modern sporting rifles and your online source for parts, upgrades, optics, and accessories. All rifle and kit components are made in the U.S.A.



**16" M4 Rifle Kit (RKT 100) / MSRP: \$510**





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V11 series—chrome-moly construction, chromed lining, 1-in-7-inch twist—but its profile significantly cuts the felt weight of the carbine. The Short Lightweight gets a shortened 14.5-inch version of the same barrel, further reducing the weight. Both the Lightweight and Short Lightweight have mid-length gas systems, and the 16-inch barrels get the DD flash suppressor, while the 14.5-inch versions get an extended, pinned and welded flash suppressor to keep its length legally compliant.

### SPEC-OPS 5.56

You can't talk about Daniel Defense without discussing the MK18. The MK18 is an SBR version widely recognized for its adaptation by USSOCOM and its use by elite special operations personnel. Daniel Defense is the sole provider of the RIS II rail that SOCOM uses on its MK18s. The MK18 is sold as a complete weapon or as an upper only. The MK18 is classified as an NFA weapon, which means you'll need to go through the appropriate process to acquire one. Or if you have an appropriately registered lower, you can just order the MK18 upper.

The MK18 features a 10.3-inch, cold-hammer-forged, chrome-lined barrel with a 1-in-7-inch twist rate. The rifle is chambered in 5.56 NATO and comes with an attached Daniel Defense flash suppressor. The barrel is MP tested and Heavy phosphate coated. M4-style feed ramps and a mil-spec, MP-tested bolt carrier group with a properly staked gas key are expected in a battle-proven platform like the MK18, and they are indeed included on the design. Additionally, the MK18 offers a carbine-length gas system as well.

The complete gun comes with Daniel Defense's own pistol grip and buttstock to accompany its typical mil-spec goodies and standard AR controls. The MK18 is one of those iconic weapons that you should definitely have in your collection if you can swing it.

You might think that there is only so much a company can do with the AR-15 platform, but Daniel Defense continually adds more products to the mix and pushes its rifles to the next level while keeping the quality high and the usefulness of its offerings legit. You can't go wrong by picking up a Daniel Defense rifle. For more information, visit [danieldefense.com](http://danieldefense.com) or call 866-554-4867.

BG



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# STOCKING UP

Photo courtesy BCM



BY ROBERT A. SADOWSKI

**AR stocks are personal.** Each operator's shoulder pocket and cheekweld is slightly different, and though the fixed A2 style and the M4 collapsible stocks are good one-size-fits-all solutions, you have options. I have had the opportunity to use a variety of different AR stocks—all worked, but some I like better than others. Think of AR stocks as falling into two camps; the first are the collapsible, compact types that are suited for CQB or home defense, and the second camp is the nearly infinitely adjustable precision stocks for long-range scenarios. Any of these stock options will help maximize your AR's performance when it matters most.



ATI AR-15 TACTLITE



**BRAVO COMPANY  
BCMGUNFIGHTER**



**BLACKHAWK KNOXX**



**ADAPTIVE TACTICAL  
EX PERFORMANCE  
ADJUSTABLE M4-STYLE**

## ADAPTIVE TACTICAL EX PERFORMANCE ADJUSTABLE M4-STYLE

Made with impact-resistant polymer, the EX Performance M4-style stock is durable and tough. Featuring an easy-to-reach rapid-adjust lever, the length of pull is customizable for shooters of different statures. An integrated QD swivel attachment and a molded-in, rust-proof, standard sling swivel attachment are included.

(adaptivetactical.com; 208-442-8000)

## ATI AR-15 TACTLITE

The TactLite six-position stock comes with a buffer tube assembly for a perfect fit on commercial- or mil-spec-sized AR-15 rifles. Weighing only 5.7 ounces, the TactLite stock is made of glass-reinforced polymer with a Scorpion recoil pad and a dual-sided QD attachment point. The TactLite stock has six locking positions.

(atigunstocks.com; 800-925-2522)

## BRAVO COMPANY GUNFIGHTER

The BCMGUNFIGHTER stock offers a lightweight, snag-free design that easily installs on your AR-15 rifle or carbine. Made of rugged polymer, the stock features a rubber recoil pad and two different types of ambidextrous sling mounting options, including QD swivel sockets. The patented latch provides users with strength when dropped or when mortaring malfunction clearance drills. The buttstock is available in black, Flat Dark Earth, foliage green and wolf gray.

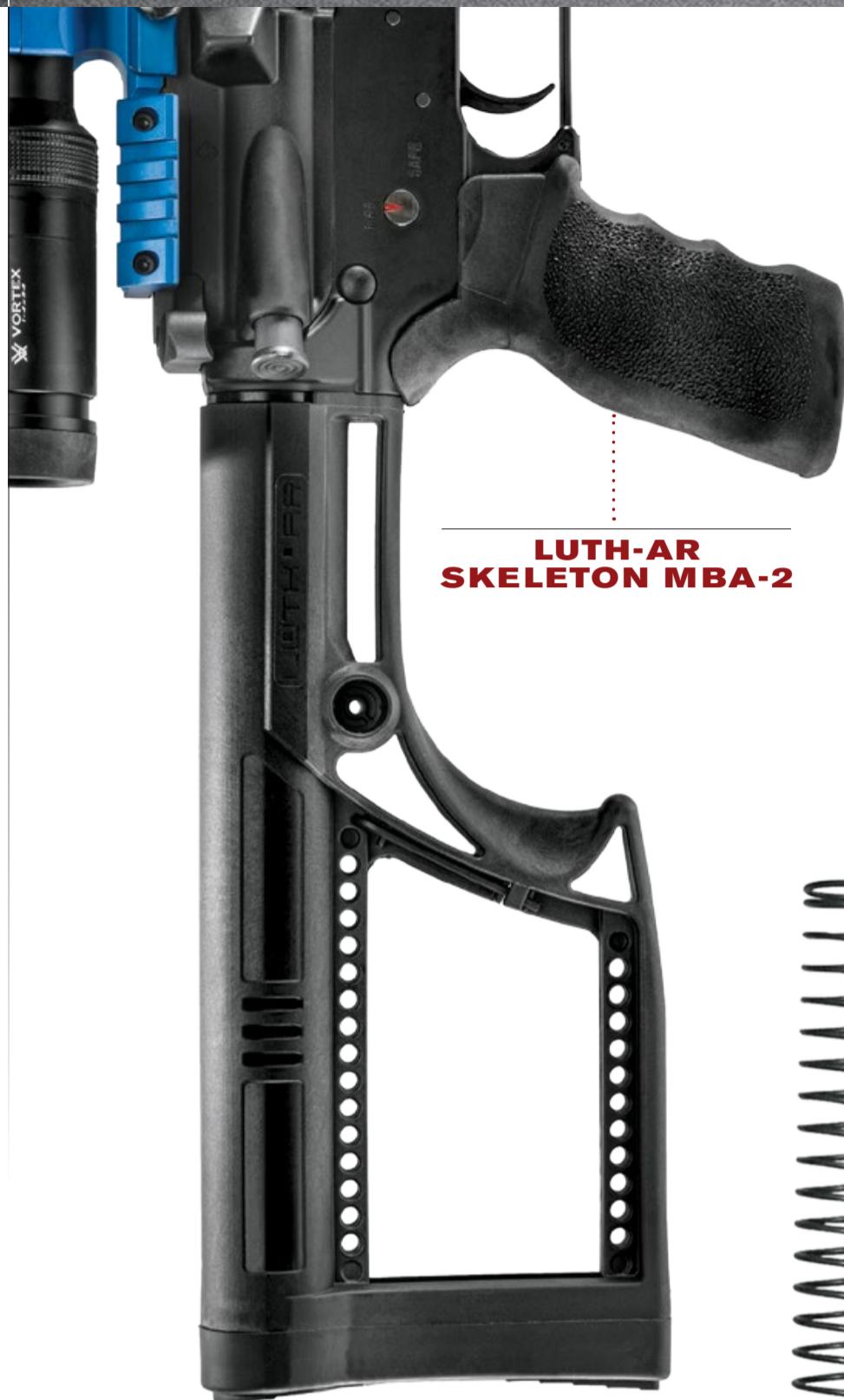
(bravocompanyusa.com; 877-272-8626)

## BLACKHAWK KNOXX

The adjustable Knoxx replacement buttstock is constructed of impact-resistant, reinforced polymer and offers a precision fit with military-style tubes with 1.146-inch diameters. The Knoxx is designed for a comfortable cheekweld as well as quick and smooth length adjustments. Ambidextrous sling mounting locations are preinstalled with a 1-inch QD sling swivel. Available colors include in black, desert tan and olive drab.

(blackhawk.com; 800-379-1732)

# STOCKS



**LUTH-AR  
SKELETON MBA-2**



**BOYDS' AR  
HARDWOOD  
CAMO**



**“ ...though the fixed A2 style and the M4 collapsible stocks are good one-size-fits-all solutions, you have options. ”**



## BOYDS' AR HARDWOOD CAMO

Wood on an AR is possible thanks to Boyd's AR-15/M16 rifles stocks. Made of multi-colored, laminated hardwood, the stock not only looks distinct, but it is tough and functional, and comes with a rubber recoil pad and swivel stud installed. These laminate stocks work with A2-type buffer tubes. (boydsgunstocks.com; 605-996-5011)

## COMMAND ARMS CBS

The CBS is a six-position stock with an ambidextrous, watertight side compartment that stows four CR123 batteries. Made of durable polymer with a rubber recoil pad, the CBS fits all AR-15 platforms. Two metal, quick-release sling mounting points plus standard sling mounts provide quick sling attachment and release. Black, green and khaki finishes are available. Side Picatinny rails can be used to attach an adjustable cheekpiece (ACP) or magazine holder (MPS). (commandarms.com)

## DPMS PARDUS

Combining light weight with great handling characteristics, DPMS' Pardus collapsible AR stock is constructed of fiber-reinforced Zytel polymer. Its buttplate is curved and has a saw-tooth texture, and a Monte Carlo-style cheekrest rounds out the package. Slings can be attached through four integrated slots. Length of pull can be adjusted via a latch with built-in finger grooves. (dpmsinc.com; 800-578-3767)

## HOQUE OVERMOLDED COLLAPSIBLE

Designed to fit both mil-spec and commercial-sized buffer tubes, the Hogue OverMolded Collapsible Buttstock for AR-platform rifles is ready for action. It features reinforced polymer construction and an OverMolded rubber cheekpiece as well as a rubber/polymer hybrid buttpad. A rubber friction fit helps ensure there is no movement or rattle. It is available in black, OD green, FDE, Ghillie Green, Ghillie Earth, pink, purple and Red Lava. (hogueinc.com; 800-438-4747)

## LUTH-AR SKULLATON MBA-2

The minimalist "Skullaton" MBA-2 fixed stock fits both .223 and .308 AR-style rifles with A2 or A1 buttstocks. Installation is fast and simple. Made of super strong glass-filled nylon, the MBA-2 has a sleek look, is ergonomic and weighs only 11.2 ounces. Its overall length is 10.37 inches. (luth-ar.com; 763-263-0166)

# STOCKS

**“ Any of these stock options will help maximize your AR’s performance when it matters most. ”**

**SAFETY HARBOR KES**



**TAPCO INTRAFUSE AR T6**



**MAGPUL MOE SL**





## **MAGPUL MOE SL**

The MOE SL (Slim Line) stock is a drop-in replacement for AR-15/M4 carbines with mil-spec-sized receiver extension tubes. The sloping cheekweld combines with a slim profile for operator comfort. Dual side-release latches provide easy adjustment while contributing to the stock's anti-snag exterior. Black, Flat Dark Earth, stealth gray and olive-drab green finishes are available. (magpul.com; 877-462-4785)

## **SAFETY HARBOR KES**

The KES (Kompact Entry Stock) system is a pull-out stock built to fit on all standard spec AR-15/M16 lowers. Length of pull expands to 13.5 inches in seconds and allows for easy sling mounting on either the left or right side of the gun. When collapsed, the KES does not interfere with the operation of the weapon. The Kompact Entry Stock kit consists of the stock assembly, a buffer, carrier and spring. (safetyharborfirearms.com; 727-726-2500)

## **TAPCO INTRAFUSE AR T6**

The Intrafuse AR T6 is not just another mil-spec-style stock. This six-position stock is made of military-grade composite to conform easily to a shooter's stature as well as allow for a more compact fit. The latch supports are reinforced and the buttpiece is thicker for a more solid firing platform. The stock is a complete kit that includes the stock, extension tube, buffer with spring, a locking plate, castle nut and sling swivel. (tapco.com; 800-554-1445)

## **THORDSEN CUSTOMS FRS-15**

The FRS-15 eliminates the pistol grip and adjustable stock on an AR-15 for part of some state and local compliance laws. The enhanced kit (shown) includes the FRS-15 stock made of glass-filled nylon and rubber for greater recoil dampening and comfort as well as a buffer tube cover for a more comfortable cheekweld. Also included in this kit are quick-detach sling hardware, an endplate and mounting hardware. (thordsencustoms.com; 650-588-3700)



# SIG SAUER

**Say hello to the 21st century with Sig's ultra-modular 5.56mm!**

## **The term “versatile” describes the SIG556xi pretty well.**

With little effort, and swapping a few parts, the gun can be modified to suit the shooter's needs. However, even with all the modifications that are available and despite the fact that the operating system is completely different, running the SIG556xi is very similar to running a standard AR-platform rifle.

Comparisons with the AK-47 are inevitable when the bolt carrier group

of the SIG556xi is examined by a knowledgeable person. But while both are long-stroke-piston-driven rifles with similarities in the operating system, the SIG556xi far surpasses the Russian design in other aspects, including build quality and how well the gun interfaces with the human operator.

A semi-automatic-only sporting version of the Swiss military's Stgw 90 rifle made its debut here in the U.S. as the SG550 and SG551 in the early 1980s. But only about 250 were imported before the 1989 import ban. Later, Sig Sauer began mak-

ing the SIG556 and a variant called the SIG551-A1 in the U.S. Since then, Sig Sauer has made several modifications, with the latest resulting in the SIG556xi, which is quite light, easy to handle and has a number of interesting features.

## **GUN DETAILS**

The SIG556xi I received for testing was the Standard version equipped with a 16-inch, lightweight barrel that has a 1-in-7-inch twist rate and a three-prong flash suppressor. Although some tools are required, the barrel can be swapped



# SIG556XI

BY DOUG LARSON

out for a 10- or 14.5-inch barrel with proper government approval. And while my test gun was chambered in 5.56mm NATO, barrels are also available in the affordable 7.62x39mm.

Surrounding the barrel is a two-piece handguard where the bottom is polymer and the top, attached to the upper receiver, is aluminum. A Picatinny rail runs from the gas block to the rear of the upper receiver, while the lower handguard is compatible with Magpul MOE accessories like rails and sling-attachment hardware. If desired, the lower handguard

can be easily replaced with an aluminum unit that will work with a wide range of accessories like extra rails, lights, lasers and vertical foregrips.

The SIG556xi is supplied with flip-up front and rear iron sights that lock into the upright position. The elevation-adjustable front sight is a post surrounded by protective wings, and the dual aperture rear can be easily adjusted for windage by turning a slotted screw with a coin or cartridge rim. The long- and short-range apertures can be easily switched and appear to be in the same plane, which is a

major positive feature because switching will not change the point of impact.

If you're looking for a gun that is easy to store, you're going to like the SIG556xi's stock. It's a Swiss-style polymer unit that can be folded to the right side, reducing the gun's overall length from 35.8 inches to a little over 26 inches. To fold the stock, just push a button located at the rear of the receiver. It's captured by a hook at the rear of the handguard. To unfold it, just swing it back in place.

The skeletonized buttstock comes with a rubber buttpad to keep the gun



## SIG SAUER SIG556xi



**“ ...the SIG556xi...is quite light, easy to handle and has a number of interesting features. ”**

from squirming around under recoil and a cheekpiece to increase the height of the comb. The cheekpiece can be removed by rotating it up and away, then snapped back into place without tools. With it removed, the gun can be fired with the stock folded, however, when present, it blocks ejection. But you say you want a different stock? No problem. The 556xi will be able to accept the same stocks kits as the MCX and MPX with the use of a M1913 Railed Back Adapter.

The pistol grip has a nicely curved backstrap that makes it comfortable to hold, partly due to the angle. The grip also has serrations on the front and back, and the side panels have a rough, sandpaper-like texture that provides a good gripping surface. Additionally, the grip has a storage compartment that is accessed by removing a bottom cover that is held securely in place by a tab.

The gun came with a single AR-style, 30-round, aluminum magazine that

### Specifications

#### SIG SAUER SIG556xi

<b>Caliber:</b>	5.56mm NATO
<b>Barrel:</b>	16 inches
<b>OA Length:</b>	35.8 inches
<b>Weight:</b>	7.1 pounds (empty)
<b>Stock:</b>	Swiss-style folding
<b>Sights:</b>	Flip-up front and rear
<b>Action:</b>	Piston-operated semi-auto
<b>Finish:</b>	Matte black
<b>Capacity:</b>	30+1
<b>MSRP:</b>	\$1,466-\$1,599

worked well, and the gun functioned perfectly with a number of other magazines, including those from Magpul, Brownells, TangoDown and Lancer. The magazine release is ambidextrous, with buttons on both sides of the aluminum receiver. There is also an ambidextrous safety selector located above the pistol grip that can be manipulated with the thumb of the

firing hand. The bolt release is a lever located just above the magazine release on the left side of the lower receiver, and at the upper rear of the lower receiver is a sling attachment point that accepts a snap hook. Another attachment point is on the inside of the stock's toe. Sig Sauer also provides a nice single-point bungee sling.

If you're really into versatility and have a stack of AK magazines, the SIG556xi can be modified to use them and fire the 7.62x39mm cartridge. And since the serialized part is the upper, just swap out the lower along with some other parts to switch to 7.62x39mm. You'll be all set to burn through that pile of AK ammunition you have on hand. It's worth noting that U.S. Palm is also offering a SIG556xi-compatible AK magazine as well.

Another interesting feature of the SIG556xi is the two-stage trigger. It can best be described as having an extremely smooth and consistent travel in both the first and second stages, leading to a break that is almost impossible to anticipate. It is not a light trigger—it measured about 8.5 pounds on my test gun—but it is smooth. And the triggerguard is generous, leaving plenty of room for a gloved finger.

Field-stripping the gun is simple. First, make absolutely certain the gun is completely unloaded. Next, the stamped-sheet-steel upper receiver is separated from the lower by pressing a takedown pin and a pivot pin out of engagement in the same manner as is done with an AR-15. Once the two receivers are apart, the charging handle is removed from the bolt

### Performance

#### SIG SAUER SIG556xi

Load	Velocity	Accuracy
Black Hills Match 75 BTHP	2,731	5.08
Federal Power-Shok 55 FMJ BT	3,211	2.37
Winchester Supreme 55 Silvertip	3,199	2.96

*Bullet weight measured in grains, velocity in fps by chronograph, and accuracy in inches for best five-shot groups at 100 yards.*



- Trijicon AccuPoint TR24G 1-4x24 Riflescope \$1,020.00
- BCM® Diamondhead Folding Rear Sight \$119.00



- BCMGUNFIGHTER™ Stock \$55.95
- BCMGUNFIGHTER™ QD End Plate \$16.95
- GEARWARD Ranger Band 20-Pak \$10.00
- BCMGUNFIGHTER™ Grip Mod 0 \$29.95

- American Defense RECON X Scope Mount \$189.95

- BCM® Diamondhead Folding Front Sight \$99.00

- BCM® KMR-15 KeyMod Rail Handguard 15 Inch \$276.95
- BCMGUNFIGHTER™ KMSM KeyMod QD Sling Mount \$17.95
- ALG Defense QMS Trigger \$46.00
- CTT Solutions Mag Cap 3-Pak \$16.95

- BCMGUNFIGHTER™ Compensator Mod 0 \$89.95
- BCM® Low Profile Gas Block \$44.95

**BCM® A2X Flash Suppressor** \$34.95



**Blue Force Gear VCAS Sling** \$45.00



**Geissele SSA Trigger** \$210.00 **Wilson Combat Tactical Trigger** \$269.95



**Inforce WML-HSP** \$119.00



**Trijicon TA31RCO-M4 ACOG 4x32** \$1,422.05



**Aimpoint PRO Patrol Rifle Optic** \$424.00



### **BCM® KMR KeyMod Free Float Rail Handguards**

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Free float rail for AR15/M4 pattern rifles.  
PWS DI 12 Inch Rail .....

**\$249.95**

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**PWS KeyMod Polymer Bipod Adapter** \$23.95



### **Daniel Defense SLiM Rail Handguard**

Slim, Light, Modular KeyMod Free Float

DD SLiM Rail 12.0 .....

**\$265.00**

DD SLiM Rail 15.0 .....

**\$265.00**



**Daniel Defense KeyMod Bipod Adapter** \$47.00



**Daniel Defense KeyMod 1 O'Clock Offset Rail Assembly** \$39.00

### **BCMGUNFIGHTER™ KeyMod 1-Inch Ring Light Mount**

For 1" diameter lights **\$39.95**



### **BCMGUNFIGHTER™ KeyMod Modular Scout Light Mount**

For SureFire Scout Light **\$39.95**



### **BCMGUNFIGHTER™ KeyMod Modular Light Mount**

For 1913 mounted lights **\$39.95**



### **Arisaka Inline KeyMod Scout Mount** \$34.00



### **Arisaka Ring KeyMod 1" Light Mount** \$44.00



### **Thorntail KeyMod Offset Adaptive Light Mounts**

Thorntail 1.030 Mount **\$70.00**



Thorntail M3M6 1913 Mount **\$50.00**

### **Arson Machine Company KeyMod Light Mounts**



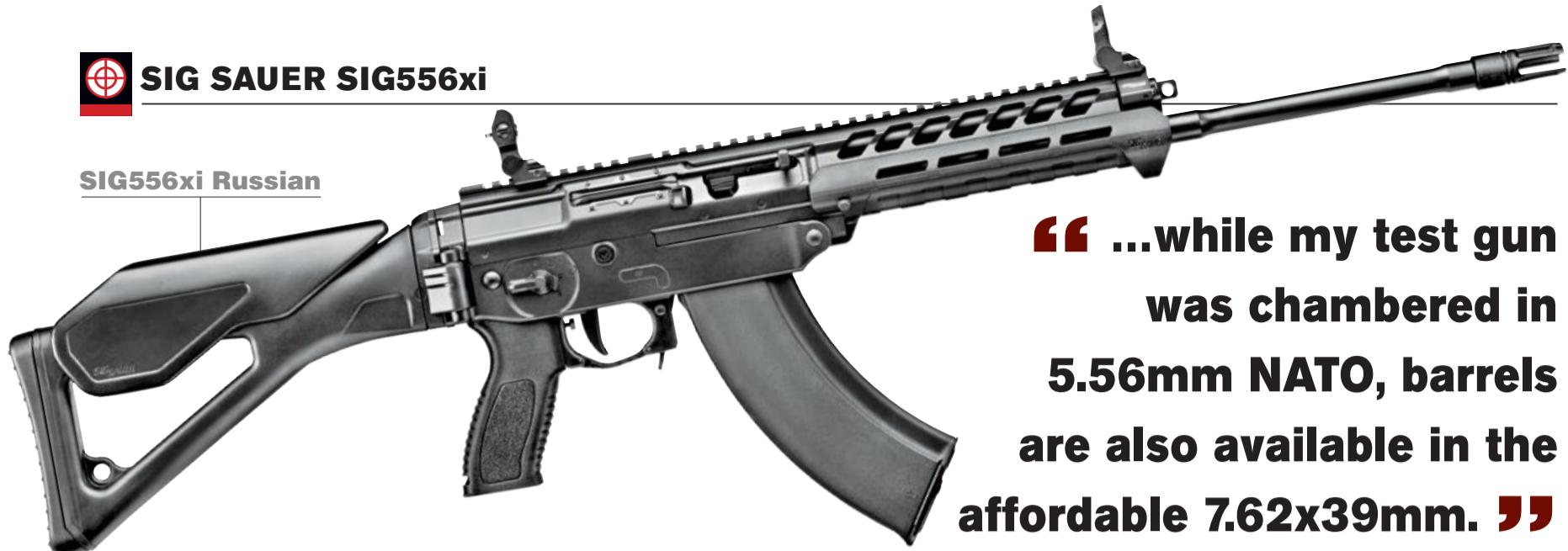
Scout M600 Mount **\$48.00**

1" Ring Mount **\$44.00**



**SIG SAUER SIG556xi**

**SIG556xi Russian**



**“ ...while my test gun was chambered in 5.56mm NATO, barrels are also available in the affordable 7.62x39mm. ”**

carrier by pushing down on the charging handle catch located on the right side of the bolt carrier. Adding to the SIG556xi's versatility is the fact that the charging handle can be inserted on either the right or left side of the gun.

Once the charging handle is removed, push the bolt carrier to the rear, where it can be removed from the upper receiver. At that point, the bolt is rotated counterclockwise until the lug disengages and the bolt can be separated from the carrier. The firing pin can then be removed from the bolt by pushing a retaining pin out with a punch. The firing pin is spring loaded, so pressing the firing pin in while doing so is required.

To disassemble the gas piston assembly, depress the plunger on the gas block and rotate the gas valve until its retaining tab clears the flange. At this point, the valve and piston can be pulled forward and separated from the barrel/receiver assembly. The valve can then be pulled off the piston. Surrounding the piston shaft is a captured spring, which should be left in place.

Adding even more versatility is the three-position-adjustable gas system.

When running under normal conditions, the tab at the front of the valve should be in the vertical position, which is marked "UP." Turning it one click counterclockwise (when viewed from the rear) increases the gas flow for use when the gun is sluggish and the operator cannot stop to clean it. Turning it one more click counterclockwise—this requires that the plunger be depressed—decreases the gas flow for use with a suppressor.

When reassembling the piston, be sure to insert it so that the open end of the channel in which the charging handle rides is down, towards the bottom of the receiver. Otherwise, you'll go crazy trying to figure out why nothing fits. Another caution: Although the manual implies that the gas tube and barrel can be easily removed, it requires tools and in my opinion would be best left to a gunsmith.

### RANGE TIME

The SIG556xi is lightweight and easy to handle. The iron sights are very usable, and with the rail running from the gas block to the rear of the receiver, any number of optics can be attached. A red dot

would be a good choice, and that is what I used for testing in tactical drills. A scope can also be easily mounted. However, be careful when running the charging handle if the mounts are anywhere along the handle's raceway, because unless you're careful, you can skin your knuckles. That caution applies whether the charging handle is mounted on the left or right side of the gun.

Locking the bolt to the rear can be done with one hand if the charging handle is installed on the left side of the gun. While holding the handle to the rear, the thumb of the same hand can push the locking lever down. If the handle is on the other side, it's going to take two hands to lock the bolt back.

The accuracy of this gun was what is to be expected from a lightweight, thin-barreled carbine. Keep in mind that the military holds that an M4 Carbine should create group sizes of no more than five inches at 100 yards. That's perfectly adequate for the job the gun is asked to do. But Sig Sauer expects the SIG556xi to shoot groups of about 3 to 3.5 inches at 100 yards, which is just about what I was able to do with a Schmidt & Bender 3-12x50mm PMII scope mounted in a LaRue Tactical mount.

In tactical drills at what many would consider the distances most likely to be encountered in a self-defense situation, the gun was more than accurate enough for the job. Using an EOTech XPS3 holographic weapon sight with a 1-MOA red dot surrounded by a 65-MOA red circle, the gun was very quick on target and for follow-up shots.

So if you're looking for a self-defense carbine but don't want an AR-15 or AK-47, check out the SIG556xi. It's got a lot going for it and can be easily configured to the shooter's liking. For more information, visit [sigsauer.com](http://sigsauer.com) or call 603-610-3000. **BG**

## MULTI-CAL METRICS

One of the most interesting characteristics of the SIG556xi is its ability to chamber and fire a range of cartridges. But which one is best for you? Take a look at this head-to-head comparison of the SIG556xi's optional chamberings.

	<b>5.56mm NATO</b>	<b>7.62x39mm</b>
<b>Common Bullet Weights:</b>	55-77	122-124
<b>Muzzle Velocity:</b>	3,200-2,750	2,390-2,330
<b>Bullet Diameter:</b>	5.56mm	7.62mm
<b>Case Length:</b>	45mm	39mm

*Bullet weights measured in grains and velocity in fps from a 16-inch barrel.*

- Midwest Industries Folding Front Sight \$79.95



- BattleComp 1.5 \$155.00

- BCMGUNFIGHTER™ 1913 Modular Light Mount, KeyMod \$39.95

- BCMGUNFIGHTER™ KAG Kinesthetic Angled Grip, KeyMod \$18.95

**PWS FSC556 Tactical Compensator \$98.95**



- Aimpoint Micro H-1 2 MOA with LRP Mount \$709.00

- BCMGUNFIGHTER™ KMSM KeyMod QD Sling Mount \$17.95

- BCM® KMR-13 KeyMod Rail Handguard 13 Inch \$269.95

- TangoDown ARC MK2 30 Round Mag \$14.95

- Midwest Industries ERS BUIS \$93.95

- GEARWARD Ranger Band 20-Pak \$10.00



### BCMGUNFIGHTER™ Comp Mod 0 - 556

Threaded 1/2x28 for 5.56 AR15 platform  
**\$89.95**

### Comp Mod 1 - 556

Threaded 1/2x28 for 5.56 AR15 platform  
**\$94.95**

### IWC KeyMod QD RL Sling Mount

Accepts heavy duty or standard QD swivels  
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### IWC KeyMod Hand Stop

Mount-N-Slot design **\$34.95**

### BCM® KeyMod Picatinny Rail Sections

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Rails available in Black, FDE, Foliage Green.  
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Nylon Rail, 4 Inch . . . . . **\$11.95**  
Nylon Rail, 5.5 Inch. . . . . **\$14.95**  
Aluminum Rail, 3 Inch, Black . . **\$19.95**  
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Aluminum Rail, 5.5 Inch, Black . . **\$29.95**

### PWS KeyMod Picatinny Rail

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### MI K-Series KeyMod Drop-Ins

Lightweight two piece drop-in handguards, includes one 5 slot KeyMod rail, easy install.  
MI-17K Carbine Length . . . . . **\$139.95**  
MI-18K Mid-Length . . . . . **\$149.95**



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Super slim one piece free float handguards, T-marked top rail, with one 5 slot KeyMod rail.  
MI-SSK-10 10.5 Inch Carbine **\$174.95**  
MI-SSK-12 12 Inch Rifle . . . . . **\$199.95**  
MI-SSK-15 15 Inch Rifle . . . . . **\$219.95**

### MI KeyMod Panel Kit

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5 slot panels, high  
impact plastic,  
Black or FDE  
**\$18.00**



### Vltor Carbine EMOD Stock

**\$119.65**



### VTAC MK2 Wide Sling

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### BCMGUNFIGHTER™ VG MOD 3

Low-profile length for increased mobility and decreased "snag". Made in the U.S.A. from impact resistant polymers, available in Black, Flat Dark Earth, Foliage Green, Wolf Gray.  
VG-KM-MOD-3, KeyMod Version . . **\$18.95**  
VG-1913-MOD-3, Picatinny Version. **\$19.95**



### Aimpoint Comp M4S

Red dot sight, fully NVD compatible, with QRP2 Picatinny Rail Mount  
**\$846.00**



### EOTech HOLOgraphic Weapon Sights

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**\$429.00**  
Model 552  
**\$529.00**



# BATTLE- READY BULLPUP



**Refined, optics-ready**

**In 1977, Steyr Arms changed the very fabric of the tactical firearms world by releasing a rifle so advanced that even today, some 38 years later, the *Armee Universal Gewehr*, or AUG, remains at the very forefront of small arms technology.**

Designated the StG 77 in Austrian Army service, the AUG was also adopted by the militaries of Argentina, Australia, Bolivia, Ecuador, Ireland, Luxembourg, Malaysia, New Zealand, Oman, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Tunisia as well as U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The

military rifle is built under license in Australia and Malaysia, while the newest civilian variant hails from the American South.

It is the innate brilliance of the basic design that has allowed the AUG to age so remarkably well. Incorporating a synthetic buttstock as well as advanced metallurgy throughout, the AUG looks, feels and acts like something dropped off the set of a science-fiction movie. The latest version of the classic StG 77 to hit the American market is the AUG/A3 M1.

The M1 version of the AUG is made in Steyr's state-of-the-art firearms manufac-

turing plant in Bessemer, Alabama. By producing its guns within the confines of the U.S., Steyr can bring all the advanced features of its current military offerings to American shooters without any archaic import restrictions. Incorporating the upgrades that originally defined the A3 variant, the primary changes brought about in the M1 involve optics mounting solutions.

The new AUG/A3 M1 comes in three distinct variants. The 11-slot Short Rail version incorporates a minimalist, optics-ready rail that is low to the receiver with nothing to snag. The 16-slot



The futuristic lines of the Steyr AUG have captivated shooters for nearly four decades. The newest AUG/A3 M1 variant offers many enhancements, including an integral 1.5x or 3x optic.

## Steyr AUG/A3 M1 delivers 5.56mm power at any range! BY WILL DABBS, MD

High Rail elevates the operator's desired optic for an improved cheekweld.

The optic on the Optic version is more akin to that of the original AUG's and incorporates either a 1.5x or 3x optical sight into the swept-back carrying handle. Reticles are slightly different for the two optics, but both include a set of crosshairs radiating out from a central range-finding circle. Unlike the originals, these integral scopes also include three lengths of Picatinny rail machined into the housing for lasers, lights or micro red-dot sights.

All rail slots are numbered, and there

is a pair of aiming dots built into the top rail as an emergency backup sight. Adjustments require a screwdriver, coin or cartridge case. Upgrades that previously defined the A3 series include a bolt hold-open, an accessory rail on the receiver and a Vltor quick-detach forward sling attachment point.

With nothing more than these few tweaks to the original remarkable design, the AUG/A3 M1 remains competitive with the most advanced firearm designs on the market today. The AUG/A3 M1 allows the AUG-equipped operator

to customize the gun to their individual mission by choosing specific optics for disparate applications. The key to these advanced capabilities rests in the foundational innovation of the design.

### COMBAT PROVEN

Short is indeed sexy for a battle rifle, but in America, if your barrel slips below 16 inches there is an arcane paperwork exercise and associated transfer tax that can be sufficient to drive you to frustration. More importantly, the terminal effectiveness of the small but fast .223



cartridge is wholly dependent upon velocity. Drop the barrel much below a certain critical length and you have a loud, expensive flamethrower that offers no real ballistic improvement over the .22 LR rifle with which you perforated cans as a kid. The solution to this is the bullpup configuration.

The origins of the term "bullpup" are obscured by history. The concept dates back at least a century and embodies the serendipitous concept of moving the action back and the stock forward, maximizing available space. The resulting weapon is short, handy and well balanced while optimizing barrel length.

In the case of the AUG, the modular receiver begins life as an aluminum investment casting, to which stainless steel reinforcements are added. Using the same sort of tech that brought us the AR-15, the receiver of the AUG is both strong and lightweight. Advanced engineering concepts mate the alloy receiver

### Specifications

#### STEYR AUG/A3 M1

<b>Caliber:</b>	5.56mm NATO
<b>Barrel:</b>	16 inches
<b>OA Length:</b>	28.25 inches
<b>Weight:</b>	7.7-8.8 pounds (empty)
<b>Stock:</b>	Synthetic
<b>Sights:</b>	Two rails, 1.5x or 3x optic
<b>Action:</b>	Piston-operated semi-auto
<b>Finish:</b>	Black, OD green or MUD
<b>Capacity:</b>	30+1
<b>MSRP:</b>	\$2,099-\$2,599

with a quickly replaceable, cold-hammer-forged, 1-in-9-inch twist barrel; alternate barrels can be swapped in seconds. In so doing, the basic modular chassis can be configured as a personal defense weapon, entry carbine or a designated marksman's arm simply by pressing a thumb button, rotating the barrel to unlock and

swapping the assembly out as needed.

The stock is a product of the same 1960s space program that spawned such revolutionary items as personal computers, cell phones and Velcro. Specifically designated polyamide 66, this fiberglass-reinforced material is heat stable and resistant to chemical and UV degradation. Most manufacturers use similar material these days, but the AUG did it first. The A3 M1 version is available in black, green and MUD brown. There has also been a limited run in white.

The rotating bolt incorporates seven locking lugs. The barrel and gas system are hard-chrome plated for durability. Ejection is fully reversible by exchanging the right-hand bolt for a left-hand version and snapping the plastic ejection port cover to the opposite side. Magazines are available in 10-, 30- and 42-round capacities.

The safety is a simple cross-bolt; right is safe and left is fire. The three-position, short-stroke gas piston operating system is adjustable via a rotating plug on the distal end. The small dot is used for normal operation. The large dot is for excessive fouling and the third position shuts off the gas system completely. The flash suppressor is configured to NATO standards.

### RANGE REPORT

If you cut your teeth on an M4, then the balance of the bullpup-style Steyr AUG may seem odd at first. However, it only takes about two magazines to fall madly in love with this rifle. The whole weapon tucks under your arm and maneuvers about indoors as well as the shortest carbine or submachine gun. Magazine changes entail reaching back behind the pistol grip. The bolt hold-open incorporated into the A3 version really speeds up the process. While still perhaps incrementally slower than the M4, this process remains markedly faster than any traditional AK.

The Achilles heel of bullpup weapons is typically the trigger. By definition the action is behind the fire control system so the trigger has to run the length of the gun to get anything accomplished. As a result, bullpup weapons typically have notoriously long, mushy triggers. Like everything else on the AUG, however, the trigger is extremely well engineered. While not quite as crisp as that of your AR, the AUG trigger is more than adequate for tactical use and produced respectable groups at distance.

## HEAD TO HEAD

By Michael O. Humphries

The iconic bullpup, with the Steyr AUG being one of the most recognizable, offers a lot of advantages over a more traditionally designed carbine. Among these are compact dimensions and easier maneuvering in tight quarters. Take a look to see how the AUG stacks up against a standard M4 Carbine-pattern rifle with a 16-inch barrel.

**OA Length:**

AUG  
28.25 inches

**Barrel Length:**

16 inches

M4 Carbine  
35.75 inches

16 inches



## Performance

### STEYR AUG/A3 M1

Load	Velocity	Accuracy
Gorilla Ammo 55 BlitzKing	2,739	2.50
Hornady 55 V-Max	2,904	1.73
HPR 60 V-Max	2,691	2.78
Remington 55 FMJ	3,039	3.00
TulAmmo 55 FMJ	2,945	4.60
Winchester 55 SuperClean	3,029	3.90

*Bullet weight measured in grains, velocity in fps by chronograph and accuracy in inches for best five-shot groups at 110 yards.*



The 1.5x optic is a great both-eyes-open tactical solution for engagements at bad-breath ranges. Thus configured, the system preserves peripheral vision and situational awareness while facilitating rapid target engagement. It takes a little heat to remove the mounting bolts to swap out the sight rails, but the two rail options allow everything from your trusty HoloSight or ACOG up to long-range precision glass to mount up without a fuss.

Winchester, Hornady, Gorilla Ammunition, Remington, HPR and steel-cased TulAmmo all turned in respectable performances. The 55-grain V-Max from Hornady rendered the tightest group at 110 yards, measuring 1.73 inches edge to edge from a tactically realistic sitting, unsupported position. Sticky steel-cased TulAmmo required the gas port to be opened to its larger setting for reliable operation, but that is why the gas system

is adjustable in the first place. All brass-cased ammo ran fine on either setting. With the gas port set properly, the rifle was reliable throughout with anything I fed it. When running brass-cased ammo, keeping the gas setting in the low position softens recoil and reduces wear.

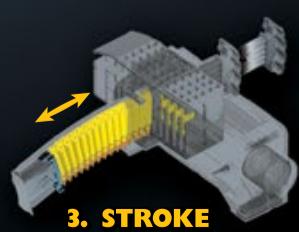
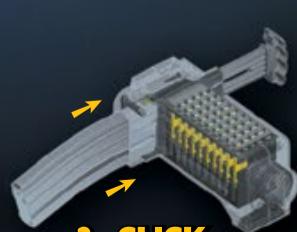
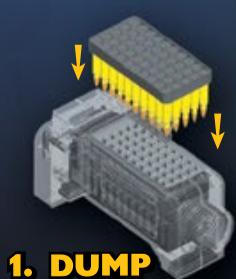
### FINAL SHOTS

Sometimes a basic mechanical design achieves timelessness through some mystical combination of solid innovation and serendipity. The Steyr AUG is just such a machine. Even nearly four decades after its introduction, the newest AUG A3 M1 clears rooms like an MP5 and drops its rounds right on target out as far as you care to drop them. Add to this that the newest member of the AUG family is now born in the American South and you have a proven tactical performer poised to serve for another half century at least. The AUG A3 M1 is rolling off the lines in Alabama ready to equip your squad car, defend your person or secure your castle better than just about anything else out there. For more information, visit [steyrarms.com](http://steyrarms.com) or call 205-417-8644. **BG**

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# EVER-READY

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Ruger's AR-556 is a dependable M4-style rifle with plenty of tank-tough features despite its highly affordable MSRP of only \$749.



**“ The AR-556 handled everything thrown at it without a single issue. ”**

# RUGERS

BY DAVID BAHDE

**Ruger has been taking the tactical market on with a vengeance over the last few years, especially when it comes to the AR rifle.**

Its SR-556 brought a high-quality, piston-driven AR to the masses during a time when costs were all but stratospheric. But dedicated fans and knowledgeable consumers have clamored for a simple, cost-effective AR from Ruger using the proven direct impingement gas system. Ideal for most users, direct impingement AR rifles are simple, light, reliable and less costly. Few American firearms companies are better suited to this task than Ruger, with its storied history of building high-quality products at a reasonable price. Bringing this mindset to the AR-556 was a perfect match.

Forged 7075-T6 aluminum upper and lower receivers establish the base for the AR-556. Type III hard coat anodizing makes them built to last. The upper receiver holds a cold-hammer-

forged, chrome moly steel barrel. Measuring 16.10 inches, the medium-contour barrel offers a 1-in-8-inch twist rate, a 5.56mm chamber and M4-style feed ramps. Though already equipped with a flash suppressor, standard  $\frac{1}{2} \times 28$  threading allows the barrel to also accept standard suppressors.

The AR-556 uses an oxide-coated bolt carrier with chromed interior and a staked gas key. Built from 9310 steel, it has been shot peened and magnetic-particle (MP) tested. It includes an ejection port cover, a forward assist and a brass deflector.

The rifle's front sight is milled and includes a serrated ramp to cut down on glare, while the flip-up rear sight is windage adjustable. Being standard A2 height, this unit will work with any rear sight and includes a QD flush cup on the bottom. The A2-style handguard is built from heat-resistant, glass-filled nylon and features a delta ring for attachment. Simply unscrew the ring and any M4-compatible handguard can be added without the use of any tools.

A mil-spec, six-position buffer tube holds the AR-556's M4-style buttstock. Ruger also added its ergonomic grip for improved trigger reach as well as an enlarged trigger guard. The single-stage trigger is crisp and predictable. Shipped in a cardboard box with a foam liner, every AR-556 includes one

Magpul PMAG, a lock and an instruction manual.





## RANGE REPORT

I began my accuracy testing with the rifle's iron sights and Federal LE .223 Tactical, my department's issue round and a popular duty round. Most who buy this rifle are going to start with iron sights. Starting at 50 yards from a kneeling position, it was possible to keep everything inside a 6-inch circle. Moving to prone, groups were half that size. This is more than accurate enough for most any real-world engagement in a self-defense or duty capacity. At 25 yards and closer, the AR-556 was as accurate as this platform gets. Stretching it out to 100 yards, the rifle was plenty accurate for duty use, holding well inside 2 inches. My guess is the rifle is more accurate than me these days with iron sights, but it will serve well in most any environment.

An EOTech EXPS3 was attached for official group testing and chronographing. The EOTech is still one of the most popular sighting systems for police rifles. It mounts simply, co-witnesses iron sights and is

priced fairly. Silver State Armory's 77-grain OTM rounds grouped right at an inch. Hornady's 60-grain TAP provided similar results. Everything was under 2 inches at this range. Comparatively speaking, the AR-556 is as accurate as most stock ARs I've tested over the last several years. Nothing is compromised on this rifle.

I ran the AR-556 hard on the range and it never failed. While shooting rapid-fire strings, from either side, upside down, from awkward positions and even with a sloppy shoulder, it always worked. Clean or dirty, and with all kinds of ammunition, the rifle performed well.

Most testing was completed using Black Hills reloads, and it never missed a beat. It worked with every PMAG, aluminum mil-spec and Lancer magazine whether they were loaded with duty rounds or FMJ ammunition. The rifle remained accurate throughout. It did get a bit hot under the handguard during sustained fire, but that is normal. Under nor-

mal conditions, the factory handguards were fine. The AR-556 handled everything thrown at it without a single issue.

Ruger has really nailed it with this rifle, and its popularity provides solid evidence of that. It is simple to operate, lightweight, accurate and reliable, all for a price that won't break the bank.

## PISTON POWER

Ruger's piston-driven AR rifles came at a time when ARs were overpriced in general, with piston-driven rifles leading that pack. Truly reliable rifles using a gas tappet piston system generally started at \$2,500 and went up from there. Many 7.62mm rifles reached close to \$4,000. Ruger's SR-556 in 5.56mm cut that in half with a package that provided all you needed to hit the range. While prices have stabilized, Ruger's SR lineup remains one of the best buys on the market through its solid features, reliability and attention to detail.

Originally built to meet a military contract requiring sustained automatic fire, the SR series' barrel is rather stout. It was also designed to include a quick-detach feature, which is imperative on a machine gun designed for sustained fire. With customers asking for an AR, Ruger decided to introduce the civilian-legal rifle with the same barrel minus the quick-detach system.

That changed this year, however, with the introduction of a quick-detach barrel that is much thinner, cutting down on weight without compromising accuracy or reliability. Just pinch and pull, twist the barrel and it comes right out; reverse the process to install. Initially available in both

## RUGER AR-556 5.56MM

### Specifications

<b>Caliber:</b>	5.56mm NATO
<b>Barrel:</b>	16.10 inches
<b>OA Length:</b>	32.25-35.50 inches
<b>Weight:</b>	6.5 pounds (empty)
<b>Stock:</b>	Collapsible
<b>Sights:</b>	A2 front, flip-up rear
<b>Action:</b>	Direct impingement semi-auto
<b>Finish:</b>	Matte black
<b>Capacity:</b>	30+1
<b>MSRP:</b>	\$749

### Performance

Load	Velocity	Accuracy
Federal 62 LE 223	2,850	1.35
Hornady 60 TAP	2,670	1.15
Hornady 75 TAP	2,600	1.25
Liberty Silverado 55 HP	2,849	1.68
Silver State Armory 64 PPT	2,848	1.40
Silver State Armory 77 OTM	2,700	1.00

*Bullet weight measured in grains, velocity in fps by chronograph and accuracy in inches for best 5-shot groups at 100 yards.*

300 BLK and 5.56mm, the design breaks down easily and fits nicely inside a Ruger Takedown Case. Future SR-556 rifles will only come with this barrel.

The new Ruger SR-556 is chambered in 5.56mm, uses M4-style cuts for reliability and has a barrel offering a 1-in-9-inch twist rate. Chrome lined and cold hammer forged, this barrel is well suited to both hard use and accuracy. Easily removable, it can be replaced with separate barrels of various lengths and calibers. All barrels will use appropriate barrel threading and will be equipped with removable flash suppressors.

A railed handguard provides space for lights, lasers or other aiming aids while covering the two-stage piston system. A four-position gas block allows user to adjust for different styles of ammunition and suppressor use.

Forged upper and lower receivers provide proven strength and operation. Ruger's bolt carrier is a one-piece unit that's built to exceed mil-spec standards in strength and durability. Hogue's Monogrip pistol grip provides comfort while an M4-style, six-position buttstock mates the rifle to your shoulder. Ruger's folding iron sights are provided and attach to the top rail. Supplied with three 30-round PMAGs, this rifle it is ready for action right out of the box.

Beginning this year, SR-556 barrels will be available in 300 BLK. Each 300 BLK barrel includes an installed gas block and front sight, and magazines that are clearly marked for caliber to avoid the accidental insertion of the incorrect ammunition. The cold-hammer-forged and chrome-lined barrel utilizes a 1-in-8-inch twist rate that's optimized for the most

popular loads. Shooting an SR-556 rifle equipped with one of the new 300 BLK barrels at a recent media event, I found it to be reliable with supersonic ammunition, both with and without a sound suppressor installed. The test 300 BLK carbine's accuracy was excellent, and it proved reliable as well.

### 7.62 SENTINEL

At the heart of the Ruger SR-762 rifle in .308 Win. is its precision-rifled, chrome-lined, hammer-forged barrel. Built from 41V45 chrome-moly steel, it insures accuracy and a long life. Fluted to save on weight, it offers 5/8x24 threading and includes a Mini-30-style flash suppressor. The barrel's 1-in-10-inch twist rate ensures operation with the most common ammunition on the market. Adjusting for variances is accomplished with the four-position gas block and the rifle's two-stage piston system. Ruger's bolt and bolt carrier are chromed for easy cleaning and reliable operation under harsh conditions.

Ruger's round, smooth-sided, lightweight handguard covers the barrel. Rails can be added at the 3, 6 and 9 o'clock positions. Hogue's Monogrip helps keep things under control and a six-position, M4-style stock sits on a mil-spec-diameter buffer tube. Three 20-round Magpul PMAGs are included with the SR-762, along with three finger-grooved rail covers, all in a soft-sided case.

Ruger continues to lead the way when it comes to proven reliability, simplicity of design and prices geared towards the everyday consumer. Rugged, reliable, well thought out and accurate, Ruger's AR and SR lines of rifles continue to impress. For more information, visit [ruger.com](http://ruger.com). **BG**

### Specifications

#### RUGER SR-556

<b>Caliber:</b>	5.56mm, 300 BLK
<b>Barrel:</b>	16.12 inches
<b>OA Length:</b>	32.75-36 inches
<b>Weight:</b>	7.94 pounds (empty)
<b>Stock:</b>	Collapsible
<b>Sights:</b>	Flip-up front and rear
<b>Action:</b>	Piston-operated semi-auto
<b>Finish:</b>	Matte black
<b>Capacity:</b>	30+1
<b>MSRP:</b>	\$2,049



#### RUGER SR-762

<b>Caliber:</b>	7.62mm NATO
<b>Barrel:</b>	16.12 inches
<b>OA Length:</b>	34.75-38 inches
<b>Weight:</b>	8.6 pounds (empty)
<b>Stock:</b>	Collapsible
<b>Sights:</b>	Flip-up front and rear
<b>Action:</b>	Piston-operated semi-auto
<b>Finish:</b>	Matte black
<b>Capacity:</b>	20+1
<b>MSRP:</b>	\$2,269



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7.62x40 WT

# WILSON COMBAT'S TACTICAL



BY D.K. PRIDGEN

**Like most folks, when the name Wilson Combat is brought up, I think of 1911 handguns.**

But that is just habit. In fact, it's been quite a while since shotguns and AR rifles joined the Wilson Combat stable. Until recently, Wilson's work in the AR field had been primarily in the 5.56mm arena with a few forays into what Bill Wilson has referred to as the "AR variant" world—6.8 SPC, .458 SOCOM and the 7.62x40mm Wilson Tactical (WT), all of which

are based off of the 5.56mm platform.

Wilson Combat's receivers were originally of the traditional forged pattern. This changed, however, when Wilson developed optional billet upper and lower receivers, the BILlet-AR receivers, that were "engineered from the ground up to address structural design weaknesses in standard USGI receivers and enhance overall tolerances."

I've been lucky enough to work with a number of the results from Bill Wilson's research on the AR platform and can say that he and his company are

doing a great job. Stepping out of the "traditional" vein, Wilson Combat is also now machining BILlet-AR receivers for the .308 Win. chambering.

## BILLET TO LAST

Matched BILlet-AR upper and lower receivers are CNC-machined completely at Wilson Combat's Berryville, Arkansas, location from aircraft-grade 7075-T6 aluminum billet stock. The increased rigidity of the BILlet-AR reduces firing flex.

BILlet-AR upper receivers are without forward assists, which many consider



Wilson Combat offers high-end ARs made with the greatest attention to detail, and its new .308 Winchester variants can reach out to 1,000 yards. Shown with a Trijicon AccuPoint scope.

# TITANS

**Custom-grade ARs built to deliver top-tier performance when it counts!**

vestigial, but offer shell deflectors along with a precise, undersized bolt raceway for smoother chambering, improved feeding and enhanced recoil dynamics. To increase the performance of multiple calibers in the platform, Wilson's BILlet-AR upper includes M4-style, extended feed ramps. The integral Picatinny top rail mates perfectly to the top rail of any Wilson Combat TRIM handguard, providing a full-length platform for accessories.

An enlarged triggerguard is integral to the design, increasing the BILlet-AR lower receiver's strength while also

making operation while wearing gloves easier. In addition, the lower has an EDM-cut, oversized magazine well for quick reloads. Both receivers have precision-machined threads and all pin holes are reamed. All alloy parts are "mil-spec hard anodized prior to final finishing" with Wilson Combat's Armor-Tuff finish.

In addition to the enhanced qualities of the BILlet-AR receivers, they are quite striking in appearance. The angles are sharp and the recesses are pronounced but flowing. For those impressed by the specs of the BILlet-AR

receivers, the new receivers are available from Wilson Combat as a custom upgrade to existing AR-pattern rifle models, on complete upper assemblies or with the company's new .308 Win. ARs.

## .308 PRECISION

Wilson Combat's goal in the development of its .308 BILlet-AR was to "design and build a premium quality, lightweight, .308-platform carbine that is accurate and reliable with minimum weight and bulk." Anyone who has spent much time with a .308 Win. AR can



understand the company's desire to put it on a diet without losing any positive attributes, such as quick follow-up shots and long-range accuracy.

An excellent downrange performer, the .308 Win. cartridge is easily handled in most bolt-action and semi-auto platforms and is not too abusive in the lighter-weight ones. With its new .308 Win. BILlet-AR ready for action, Wilson Combat has introduced four versions of its "standard" .308 Recon into the market. The only differences between these variants are in barrel and TRIM handguard length. Stainless steel, match-grade barrels for these potent carbines are available in 14.5- (with pinned and welded flash suppressor), 16-, 18- and 20-inch lengths. And just like those for the 5.56mm series, the .308 Win. barrels are now button rifled right in Berryville.

Every .308 Win. rifle includes Wilson's TRIM handguard rail, a Tactical Trigger Unit, a Bravo Company pistol grip, a Rogers Super-Stoc and a bushel basket full of other enhancements and finishes. Wilson's TRIM handguard rail can accept additional rail pieces of various lengths at the 3, 6 and 9 o'clock positions. The .308 Win. BILlet-AR lowers are also machined to accept SR-25 magazines.

Not satisfied with only offering its initial four versions of the .308 Recon, a fifth variant was introduced—the Super Sniper. Built using the same precision BILlet-AR receivers, the .308 Super Sniper includes a 20-inch (fluted or un-fluted), button-rifled, reverse-crowned barrel made from 416R stainless steel. The TRIM rails are available in 12- or 14-inch lengths.

Given all the enhancements on the .308 Super Sniper, Wilson Combat's claim

that it delivers "consistent results all the way to 1,000 yards with a broad range of bullet weights" doesn't seem farfetched! This rifle definitely falls in the "if you can see it, you can hit it" class of rifles. It's just another example of what BILlet-AR receivers are capable of in the field.

### 5.56 SECURITY

As previously noted, for nearly 20 years Wilson Combat's catalog has shown a number of more traditional ARs built on the 5.56mm platform. Of course, "more traditional" does not mean they're built without Wilson Combat's custom touches or unique twists. These traditional offerings include ARs chambered for the 5.56mm cartridge (as well as a few alternate calibers).

The Super Sniper has a 20-inch, 1-in-8-inch twist, heavyweight, plain or fluted, stainless steel, match-grade barrel with a

**“The Super Sniper is built for extreme accuracy and rapid follow-up shots when they matter most.”**

.223 Wylde chamber. The Super Sniper is built for extreme accuracy and rapid follow-up shots when they matter most.

The Special Purpose Rifle (SPR), along with the Super Sniper, features upper and lower receivers forged from 7075-T6 aluminum alloy. Wilson's SPR, based on the special operations Mark 12 Mod X, is designed as an intermediate sniper/designated marksman rifle and utilizes a

stainless steel, match-grade, 18-inch barrel with a 5.56mm chamber, an Accu-Tac flash suppressor and a 1-in-7-inch twist.

Both of these rifles have M4-style feed ramps, rifle-length gas systems with low-profile gas blocks and arrive wearing TRIM rails. The finishing process includes mil-spec hard anodizing on upper and lower receivers followed by the application of Armor-Tuff over the steel and alloy. Shared traits include Bravo Company pistol grips, Rogers Super-Stocs and single-stage Tactical Trigger Units set for 4-pound pulls. Finally, there are Lancer magazines and NP3-coated, mil-spec bolts and bolt carriers.

### TAKEDOWN POWER

There are a number of alternative chambering choices among Wilson's AR lineup as well, including 6.8 SPC, 300 BLK, 7.62 WT and .458 SOCOM. The one AR version available in all of these alternate calibers is the Recon Tactical.

Wilson's Recon Tactical is available with medium-weight, stainless steel, match-grade barrels in 16-, 18- and 20-inch lengths, depending on caliber. The barrels all feature Accu-Tac flash suppressors and use mid-length gas systems (except the 300 BLK variant, which uses a carbine-length system). Barrels for all the alternative calibers use traditional rifling, and the 7.62 WT can also be had with polygonal rifling. Upper and lower receivers are of forged 7075-T6 aluminum alloy, which is hard coat anodized and treated with Wilson's Armor-Tuff finish.

A Wilson Combat TRIM rail circles the barrels and a roomy Wilson Tactical triggerguard encloses the rifle's single-stage

### Specifications

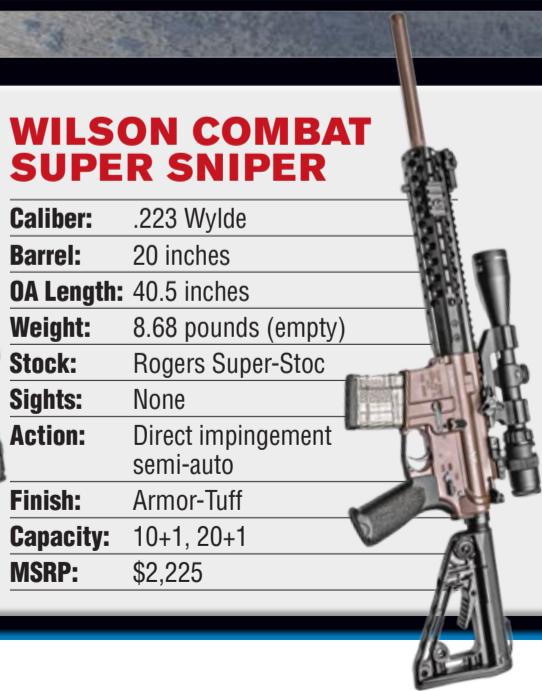
#### WILSON COMBAT .308 RECON

<b>Caliber:</b>	.308 Winchester
<b>Barrel:</b>	14.7, 16, 18 or 20 inches
<b>OA Length:</b>	33.25-39.75 inches
<b>Weight:</b>	7.65-9.45 pounds (empty)
<b>Stock:</b>	Rogers Super-Stoc
<b>Sights:</b>	None
<b>Action:</b>	Direct impingement semi-auto
<b>Finish:</b>	Armor-Tuff
<b>Capacity:</b>	10+1, 20+1
<b>MSRP:</b>	\$2,995



#### WILSON COMBAT SUPER SNIPER

<b>Caliber:</b>	.223 Wylde
<b>Barrel:</b>	20 inches
<b>OA Length:</b>	40.5 inches
<b>Weight:</b>	8.68 pounds (empty)
<b>Stock:</b>	Rogers Super-Stoc
<b>Sights:</b>	None
<b>Action:</b>	Direct impingement semi-auto
<b>Finish:</b>	Armor-Tuff
<b>Capacity:</b>	10+1, 20+1
<b>MSRP:</b>	\$2,225



#### WILSON COMBAT RECON TACTICAL

<b>Caliber:</b>	5.56mm, 6.8 SPC, 300 BLK, 7.62x40 WT, .458 SOCOM
<b>Barrel:</b>	16, 18 or 20 inches
<b>OA Length:</b>	33 inches
<b>Weight:</b>	7 pounds (empty)
<b>Stock:</b>	Rogers Super-Stoc
<b>Sights:</b>	None
<b>Action:</b>	Direct impingement semi-auto
<b>Finish:</b>	Armor-Tuff
<b>Capacity:</b>	30+1, 20+1 (5.56mm)
<b>MSRP:</b>	\$2,300

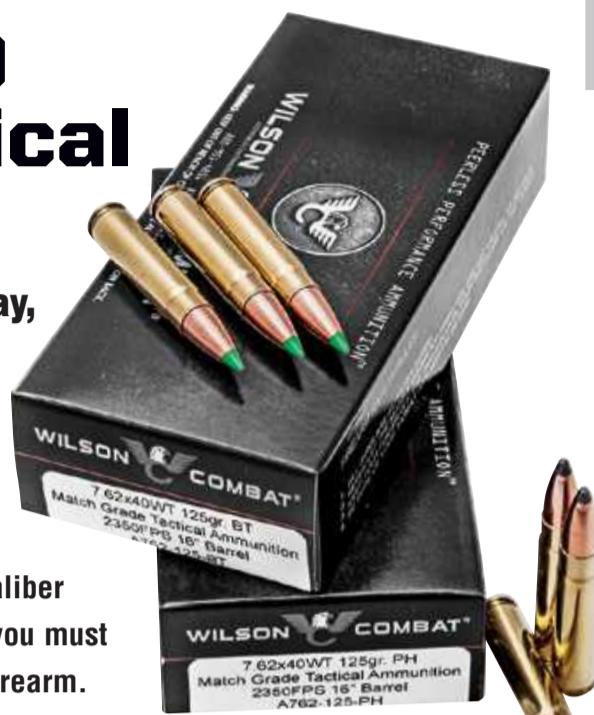


# Best Of Both Worlds The 7.62x40 Wilson Tactical

By Michael O. Humphries

**The AR-15 has many fans today, due no doubt to its combination of proud military heritage and impressive accuracy potential. However, its standard 5.56mm chambering leaves some shooters wanting more downrange power. To step up to .30-caliber performance with a .308 Win. round, you must also step up in size to a much larger firearm.**

To address this, Wilson Combat did a little bit of outside-the-box thinking and came up with the innovative 7.62x40 Wilson Tactical (WT) round. This cartridge offers .30-caliber punch in a 5.56mm-sized platform and is based off the standard 5.56mm NATO case that has been shortened and necked-up to accept a .30-caliber bullet. The result is a cartridge that pushes a 110- to 125-grain bullet at around 2,500 feet per second, while still using a large number of standard 5.56mm NATO AR-platform components. See, it truly is the best of both worlds!



Tactical Trigger Unit. An Ergo pistol grip, a Rogers Super-Stoc, a mil-spec bolt and bolt carrier and polymer Lancer magazines complete the package. (The 6.8 SPC and 300 BLK models use metal magazines.)

Designed based on Bill Wilson's extensive hunting experience of feral hogs, among other game, the 7.62 WT cartridge provides excellent effectiveness, accuracy and low recoil. The 7.62 WT is also available in the SBR Tactical (11.3-inch barrel).

The 5.56mm, 6.8 SPC and 300 BLK cartridges are also available in the 11.3-inch-barreled SBR Tactical with its carbine-length gas system. The rifle's receivers are forged, its pistol grips and charging handles are from Bravo Company, and it features a TRIM rail, a Wilson Tactical trigger-guard and a single-stage Wilson Combat Tactical Trigger Unit. A Rogers Super-Stoc and an NP3-coated, mil-spec bolt and bolt carrier are featured. The SBR Tactical is NFA regulated and its match-grade barrel is threaded for the addition of suppressors. For more information, visit [wilsoncombat.com](http://wilsoncombat.com) or call 800-955-4856.

**BG**

A man with a beard and a baseball cap is holding a Puritan 7.62x39mm rifle. The rifle is a hybrid design, combining AR-15 upper and AK-47 lower components. The text "It's go time" is overlaid on the image. The Puritan 7.62x39mm logo is visible on the right side of the image.

Part AR, part AK, all POF-USA. The 7.62x39 Puritan delivers sub MOA accuracy and gas piston reliability in a familiar package weighing just 6.7 lbs. With the comforts and modularity of the AR-15 you'll forget you're shooting the venerable 7.62x39mm round. Combine that with our crisp 5.5lb drop in trigger and you'll quickly understand the benefits of the Puritan 7.62x39.



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# ELITE OPTICS & MOUNTS

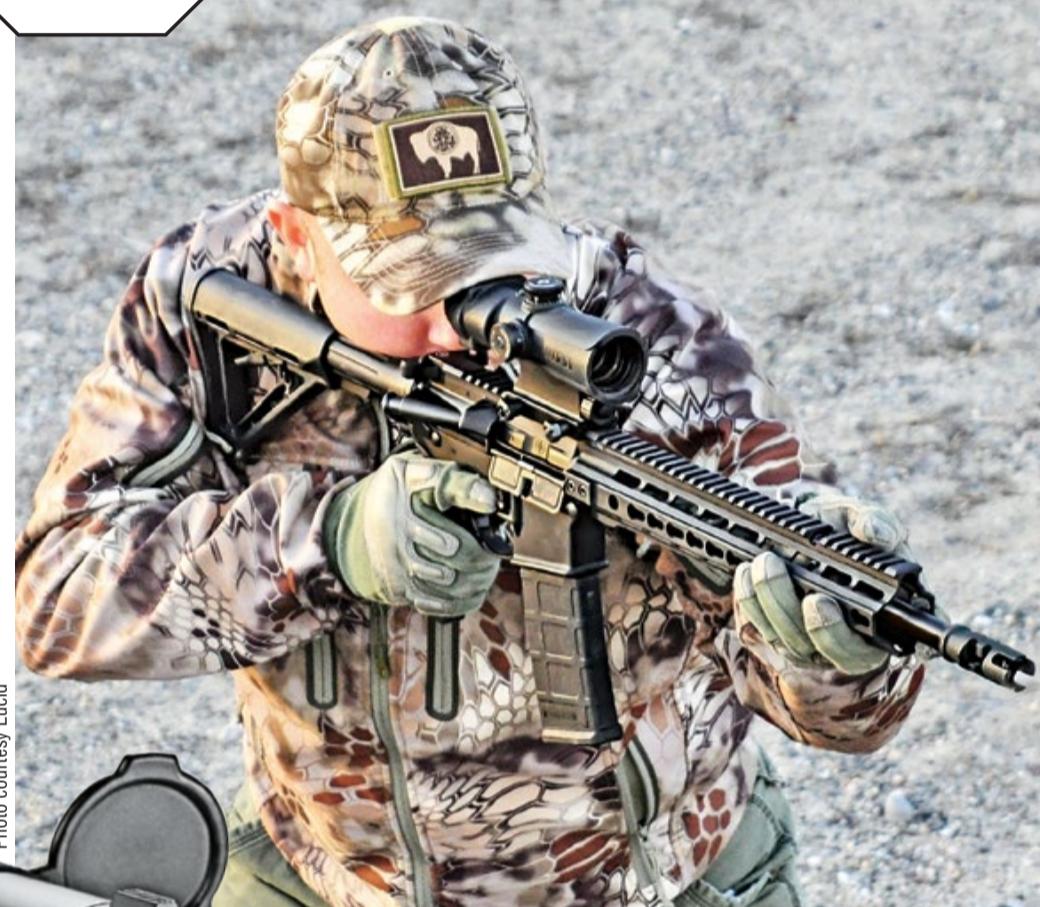


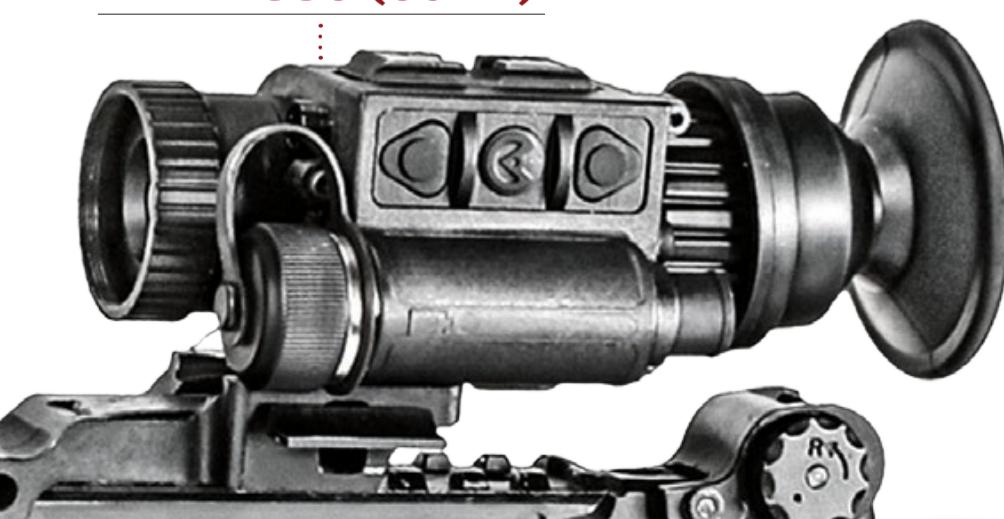
Photo courtesy Lucid

**BY ROBERT A. SADOWSKI**

**A generation ago, an optic on a battle rifle was uncommon.**

As optic technology evolved to produce rugged, dependable and consistent glass, the AR platform has benefited tremendously. This has helped make an AR in either a carbine or rifle configuration more effective up close through the use of red dots and reflex sights. With compact, low-power scopes, close- to mid-range shooting is fast and accurate. At distance, optics can help squeeze out all of your AR's performance potential.

.....| **BARSKA AR6 1-6x24MM**

**ARMASIGHT Q14  
TIMM 336 (60HZ)****DANIEL DEFENSE  
AIMPOINT MICRO MOUNT**



**AIMPOINT  
MICRO T-2**



**BUSHNELL  
TRS-25 HIRISE**



**BUSHNELL FIRST  
STRIKE HIRISE**



## AIMPOINT MICRO T-2

The Micro T-2 red-dot sight features a new housing that allows for the use of flip covers and features beefed-up turret protection and internal electronic components. The reticle is a 2-MOA red dot with a variety of illumination settings: four settings for night vision and eight daylight settings. At only 3.7 ounces, it is super lightweight. It is also compatible with night-vision and magnifying devices. (aimpoint.com; 877-246-7646)

## ARMASIGHT Q14 TIMM 336 (60HZ)

The Q14 TIMM 336 from Armasight is a compact, long-wave infrared multifunctional thermal imaging monocular (LIMTIM). The unit uses digital contrast correction to optimize the image even where a variety of contrast levels occur, depending on scene temperature. The Q14 TIMM 336 is compatible with both visible and IR laser pointers and can be mounted to a weapon or helmet as needed. (armasight.com; 888-959-2259)

## BARSKA AR6 1-6x24MM

Developed for short- to mid-range shooting, the AR6 1-6x24mm rifle scope features a 30mm tube design and fully coated optics. This provides high light transmission and a bright, crisp image. Barska's 30/30 duplex-style reticle rounds out the package and illuminates in either red or green. It is powered by one CR2032 battery, and flip-up lens caps and a cantilever mount are included. (barska.com; 888-666-6769)

## BURRIS AR-332 TACTICAL KIT

Burris is offering AR Tactical Kits that include a quality prism sight and either a secondary red-dot sight or an AR Tripler, plus mounts, all packaged in a rugged carry case. The AR-332 Tactical Kit features a Burris AR-332 featuring 3x magnification and the Ballistic CQ reticle. An Anti-Reflection Device reduces reflection and glare. The included FastFire II red dot reflex sight provides a 4-MOA dot with an automatic brightness sensor that adjusts to any lighting condition. It can be positioned on top of the AR-332 for fast target acquisition and close-range engagement. (burrisoptics.com; 970-356-1670)

## BUSHNELL TRS-25 HIRISE

Designed to allow proper eye alignment with an AR, the TRS-25 HiRise from Bushnell comes with a riser block that positions the TRS-25 at the optimal height when mounted on an AR-15 flattop rifle. It features a 3-MOA red dot with 11 brightness settings and multi-coated optics to enhance light transmission. It is waterproof, fogproof and shockproof, and an included one-piece rubber cover protects both lenses. (bushnell.com; 800-423-3537)

## BUSHNELL FIRST STRIKE HIRISE

Featuring a 5-MOA dot reticle with an automatic brightness adjustment that adjusts illumination based on variable light conditions, the Bushnell First Strike HiRise reflex sight delivers when it counts. An included riser block elevates the sight to proper eye level when mounted on a flattop AR carbine or rifle. The integrated base allows the optic to be quickly mounted on a Weaver-style base or Picatinny rail. Included is a protective hood that covers the sight. (bushnell.com; 800-423-3537)

## DANIEL DEFENSE AIMPOINT MICRO MOUNT

Made of 6061-T6 aluminum with a hardcoat anodized finish, the Micro Mount gives users a rock-solid mount at the correct height for their Aimpoint Micro sights. Two mounting options allow users to set up this mount for an absolute co-witness (1.5 ounces) or include the magnesium spacer (1.8 ounces) for a lower-third co-witness with iron sights. Daniel Defense machines all the sharp edges on the mount so it's totally snag-free. (danieldefense.com; 866-554-4867)

## BURRIS AR-332 TACTICAL KIT

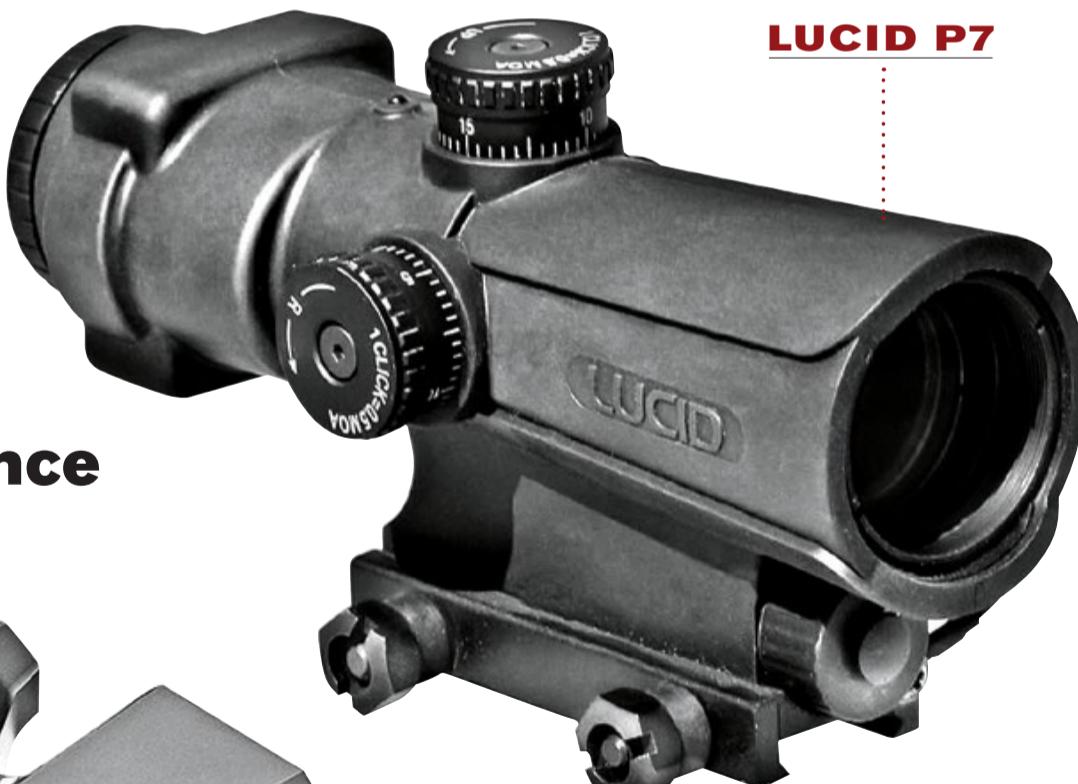
# OPTICS & MOUNTS



**ELCAN  
SPECTERTR  
1-3-9X 3FOV**

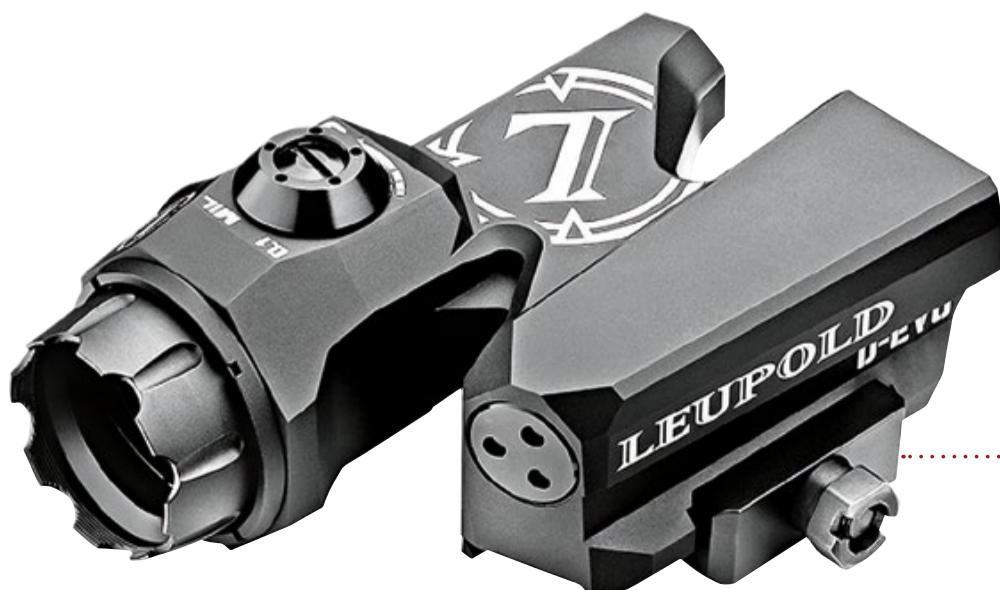


**KAHLES K16I**



**LUCID P7**

**“ At distance,  
optics can help  
squeeze out all of  
your AR’s performance  
potential. ”**



**LEUPOLD D-EVO**

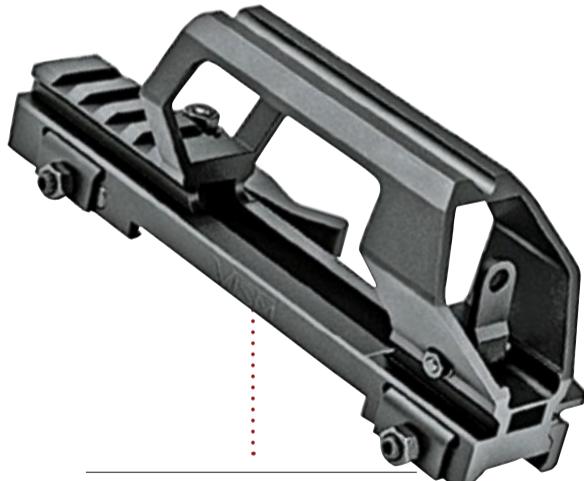


## DEAD RINGER WIDOW MAKER

The 1.5-6x32mm Widow Maker scope from Dead Ringer features a second-focal-plane, glass-etched reticle, a fast-focus ocular and fully multi-coated lenses. The 8.9-inch-long scope has lockable turrets that offer 0.5-MOA click adjustments. Finally, the reticle is illuminated for superior sighting in a variety of lighting conditions. ([deadringerhunting.com](http://deadringerhunting.com); 585-355-4685)



**EOTECH  
MODEL 518**



**NCSTAR DCH  
GEN 2  
CARRY HANDLE  
& DOT SIGHT**



## ELCAN SPECTERTR 1-3-9X 3FOV

The SpecterTR is very unique in the world of rifle optics, as it offers three field-of-view options in one sight, making it effective in close-range situations, mid-range scenarios and for long-range shooting. A switch on the side of the SpecterTR unit allows an operator to go from any of the three fields of view instantly. ([armament.com](http://armament.com))

## EOTECH MODEL 518

The 518 Holographic Weapon Sight (HWS) features a quick-release base, side-button functionality and is powered by commonly found AA batteries. The unit is compatible with the EOTech's magnifier and the company's proprietary laser battery caps. The 518 weighs 13.3 ounces and is 5.5 inches in length. ([eotech-inc.com](http://eotech-inc.com); 888-368-4656)

## EOTECH MODEL 558

Use the 558 Holographic Weapon Sight (HWS) if you intend to use night-vision devices. The 558 is compatible with Gen I thru Gen III night-vision devices and features a quick-locking mount. The side-mounted buttons allow for easy operation of the sight, with 20 daylight settings and 10 additional settings for night-vision devices. ([eotech-inc.com](http://eotech-inc.com); 888-368-4656)

## KAHLES K16I

The K16i is a fast-targeting 1-6x24mm compact scope with a huge field of view. At 1x power, the field of view is 127 feet, and at 100 yards and 6x power the field of view is 20.1 feet. The K16i uses a second-focal-plane reticle, so it does enlarge as the power is turned up. Four reticle styles are available. The SI 1 and SM 1 reticles offer unobstructed views above the horizontal strata, and they are equipped with an illuminated donut and dot for close-up work. The vertical strata has graduated tick marks for more precise elevated aiming marks. ([kahles.at](http://kahles.at); 866-606-8779)

## LEUPOLD D-EVO

The unique 6x20mm D-EVO (Dual-Enhanced View Optic) is Z-shaped to allow the unit to be paired and mounted behind a reflex, holographic or red-dot sight without obstructing the view. In the field, shooters can quickly shift their focus from the 1x view of the red-dot sight to the 6x precision optic of the D-EVO. ([leupold.com](http://leupold.com); 800-563-7653)

## LUCID P7

The P7 combat sight offers fixed 4x magnification with a wide field of view and a glass-etched P7 reticle for fast close- to mid-range aiming and compatible with night vision. Constructed of cast aluminum with a rubber armor coat, the P7 runs on one AA battery. The built-in mount is designed for correct eye alignment when mounting on an AR platform. ([mylucidgear.com](http://mylucidgear.com); 307-840-2160)

## NCSTAR DCH GEN 2 CARRY HANDLE & DOT SIGHT

This unit combines the DCH Gen 2 Carry Handle with a dot sight. The rear of the carry handle has a short Picatinny rail for mounting other accessories like lights or lasers. Weighing 9.1 ounces, the 6.9-inch handle attaches to any flattop receiver via quick-release levers. ([ncstar.com](http://ncstar.com); 866-627-8278)

## EOTECH MODEL 558

# OPTICS & MOUNTS





**SIGHTMARK PINNACLE 1-6x24MM AAC**

**TRIJICON RMR RM09 REFLEX**



**SPUHR ISMS SCOPE MOUNT**

## **NIGHTFORCE OPTICS 4-16x42MM F1 ATACR**

The 4-16x42mm F1 ATACR (Advanced Tactical Riflescope) offers extreme optical quality, clarity and performance in a compact package that is just 12.6 inches long. The first-focal-plane reticle uses Digillum illumination, and four reticle options are offered: Horus H59, Horus TReMor3, MIL-R F1 and MOAR F1. The scope's eyepiece uses an integrated Power Throw Lever for super-fast magnification changes. (nightforceoptics.com; 208-476-9814)

## **NITESITE VIPER**

The Viper is a short-range night-vision system designed to be affordable and reliable. The Viper uses an integral 3.4-inch LCD screen and infrared illumination differently than traditional light amplification technologies to deliver crisp, ultra-clear night vision, regardless of ambient light conditions. It allows target identification up to 110 yards away while a video jack enables recording. (nitesite.com)

## **SIGHTMARK PINNACLE 1-6x24MM AAC**

The Pinnacle 1-6x24mm AAC first-focal-plane riflescope features a red/green illuminated CDC-300 reticle calibrated for 300 BLK ammunition. The rugged Pinnacle can take 800 Gs of recoil force, so you know it is one tough customer. The unit's one CR2032 battery will run the scope's reticle for 30 to 1,000 hours depending on the illumination setting. (sightmark.com; 817-225-0310)

## **SPUHR ISMS SCOPE MOUNT**

The ISMS (Ideal Scope Mounting System) design provides a rock-solid Picatinny-style mounting platform for accessories and clear visibility of the turrets. This mount features a 10-degree leveling wedge, four numbered and indexed Torx-head screws, a built-in level to indicate any cant and seven to eight mounting surfaces for accessories. It is constructed from a single piece of solid billet 7075-T651 aluminum. (spuhr.biz)

## **TRIJICON RMR RM09 REFLEX**

The aluminum Trijicon RMR (Rugged Miniature Reflex) LED sight is now available with a 1-MOA dot reticle with eight brightness settings. The sight can automatically adjust to light conditions or it can also be manually adjusted via side buttons. The Trijicon RMR is powered by one CR2032 battery. (trijicon.com; 800-338-0563)

## **UTG 1-8x28MM CQB/MRC SCOPE**

Have the need for a scope to play multiple range roles? The UTG 1-8x28mm CQB/MRC scope offers 1x power for close encounters and up to 8x magnification for distance. Built on a 30mm tube, the scope is compact and lightweight. The illuminated, glass-etched, circle-dot reticle offers 36 different color choices and adjustable brightness settings. (leapers.com; 734-542-1500)

## **WEAVER KASPA TACTICAL 1.5-6x32MM**

Rugged and tough, the KASPA 1.5-6x32mm scope features a one-piece tube, 0.25-MOA click value adjustments at 100 yards and a fully multi-coated lens. Located in the second focal plane is the illuminated Tactical Ballistic-X (TBX) glass-etched reticle that is powered by one CR2032 battery. (weaveroptics.com; 800-379-1732)

# BUSHMASTER



## MOE ENHANCED ORC 7.62mm

**Big-bore powerhouse streamlined for fast-handling performance!**

BY ROBERT JORDAN

**I love the AR-15 platform, and I own a lot of different rifles that fall within that category. However, my biggest critique of it has always been the fact that the 5.56mm NATO round**

**is, well, in my opinion a little anemic.**

Some people call it a pipsqueak or mouse round, and others say it is a glorified pistol caliber. Be that as it may, it works well for the role it fills as an entry weapon and tactical patrol gun among its other duties. But I still long for a gun with a bit more power behind it.

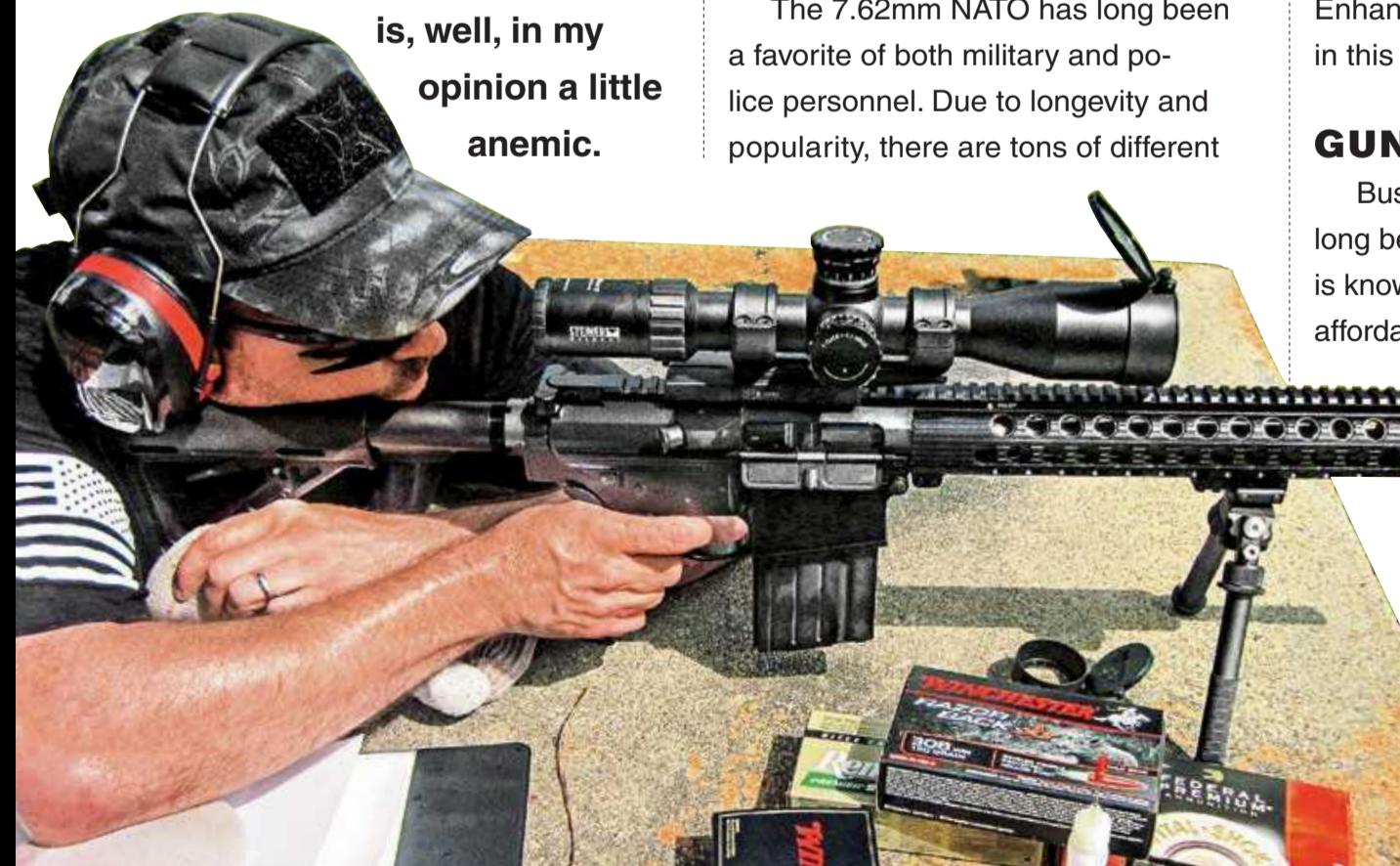
The 7.62mm NATO has long been a favorite of both military and police personnel. Due to longevity and popularity, there are tons of different

types of rounds to choose from, and they are far less expensive than some of the modern, exotic calibers that tout how much better they perform. The fact is that the 7.62mm NATO has plenty of penetration and knockdown power. And a tactical rifle like the Bushmaster MOE Enhanced ORC (Optics-Ready Carbine) in this round is a great option.

### GUN DETAILS

Bushmaster, founded in 1973, has long been associated with AR rifles. It is known for supplying accurate and affordable weapons to law enforcement officers, soldiers and civilians alike. The Bushmaster

MOE Enhanced ORC is a combination of forged aluminum upper and lower receivers; a 16-inch, 4150 steel, chrome-lined





With a sleek, free-floating Troy forend and Magpul grip and stock, the Bushmaster MOE Enhanced ORC delivers top big-bore performance without breaking the bank.

barrel; and some great furniture made by Magpul and Troy. The rifle comes with Magpul's MOE collapsible stock fitted on a six-position, commercial-diameter buffer tube as well as a Magpul MOE pistol grip. This MOE line is a vast improvement over the mil-spec parts they replace but are still affordable.

The 12.5-inch-long, free-floating, aluminum handguard is Troy's low-profile Alpha model with proprietary round holes that allow for both heat dissipation and the attachment of Picatinny rails for accessories. I mounted an included 2.5-inch Picatinny rail on the bottom of the tube. First I used it to mount an Atlas bipod, and then a Magpul Angled Foregrip (AFG-2). Later, I mounted a second short rail on the side for a light. A third rail, a little over 4 inches, is also included. A hole for a push-button, quick-detach (QD) sling is positioned at the

end of this Picatinny rail. The handguard itself extends past the low-profile gas block, which is hidden inside. This gives you extra real estate for mounting optics, lights, lasers and foregrips. What I like about the longer forend is the ability to extend my support arm farther out and "drive" the rifle from target to target.

There is one feature that generally goes a long way toward improving an AR rifle: a high-quality, free-floating barrel. The Bushmaster MOE Enhanced ORC's barrel is a 16-inch, 1-in-10-twist, button-cut barrel made from 4150 steel, which is significantly harder than 4140 steel, although the main difference is that it contains a mere 0.1 percent more carbon. Class 4140 steel has long proven itself an excellent metal for gun barrels. However, the U.S. military insists on 4150 because it is harder and therefore will take longer to wear out un-

der hard use. Most manufacturers prefer to use 4140 because their tools will not wear out as quickly as when they use 4150. Using a stronger, harder steel does not make a barrel more or less accurate, but it does show a commitment to quality from the manufacturer. The chrome lining inside the barrel and the chamber helps with corrosion resistance. Chrome is far harder than steel and is not as susceptible to rust.

Unlike most 5.56mm ARs, many 7.62mm AR rifles will not accept a standardized magazine. The most common types of 7.62mm AR magazines are those in the Magpul pattern, and they slowly seem to be becoming the standard. These are the style of magazines that will function in the Bushmaster MOE Enhanced ORC. I did not have any of these on hand during the testing, however, so I stuck with the 20-round



## BUSHMASTER MOE ENHANCED ORC 7.62mm



The beefy receivers immediately show that this is no run-of-the-mill 5.56mm, but a powerful 7.62mm AR.

steel magazine that came with the test MOE Enhanced ORC.

I am a huge fan of the 7.62mm NATO round due to its availability and its wide variety of bullet choices. Plus, once you shoot a 7.62mm, you realize how much more power you are wielding than a 5.56mm. One of the best features of this Bushmaster rifle is that it doesn't feel much different from its little brother, the AR-15. The pistol grip is the same size. The stocks are interchangeable. The safety selector, bolt catch and mag release feel exactly the same. The lower receiver is actually over an inch longer than a 5.56mm lower, but the span from the grip to the trigger and each of the controls is identical.

The rifle does not come with sights, and again, its name stands for Optics-Ready Carbine. I have said time and again that I like it when manufacturers do not include sights on the gun. It keeps the price down, and quite frankly, the odds of the included sights being what the end-user really likes are slim. Some patrol officers may opt for simple iron sights. Others will want a red-dot sight. Still others will want a variable-power scope. In all circumstances where a rifle will be used for tactical purposes, I do recommend

some type of backup sights be installed in case the red-dot sight or variable-power scope fails. There are lots of choices for backup sights, and I appreciate the fact that Bushmaster does not pretend to know which ones will work best for me.

### RANGE TIME

After a quick cleaning and oiling of the bolt and bolt carrier, I mounted a Steiner 3-15x50mm Military scope on the rifle with a set of Bobro 34mm rings. I can't remember ever being able to mount a scope faster or easier, and I could not believe how much clearer the glass was in the Steiner scope than in my old rusty, trusty scope that I have been using for years of testing. I felt bad only testing the rifle at 100 yards when the scope and rifle were capable of so much more.

After completing the accuracy testing, I wanted to try out the Bushmaster MOE Enhanced ORC as a tactical rifle for use up close and at varying distances. I mounted a Nightforce 1-4x24mm NXS scope on top with a set of Nightforce 30mm rings. The FC-3G reticle was made to handle the transition from close to far distances. The quick throw lever made magnification quick, and the illuminated reticle kept it crisp and clear against dark

### Specifications

#### BUSHMASTER MOE ENHANCED ORC

Caliber:	7.62mm NATO
Barrel:	16 inches
OA Length:	34-37.75 inches
Weight:	9 pounds (empty)
Stock:	Magpul MOE
Sights:	None
Action:	Direct impingement semi-auto
Finish:	Matte black
Capacity:	20+1
MSRP:	\$1,599

targets and dark backgrounds. I sighted in and then set up some targets at different spots on a 200-yard range. Again, I felt like I was doing this rifle and scope package a disservice by not sufficiently challenging it. Man-sized silhouettes were fast to engage and proved easy prey at unknown distances well past 100 yards. The scope acted like a red-dot sight, rolling right up to the 3-yard line and engaging multiple targets while on the move. While the rifle's recoil and concussion were greater than a 5.56mm's, I honestly expected to feel it a lot more. Follow-up shots were quick and easy. Bushmaster has done a great job of taming the 7.62mm recoil. I only wished that I had several magazines to try some reload drills.

### FINAL NOTES

Whenever someone talks about an AR rifle, they are typically talking about a 5.56mm. However, the AR platform is capable of handling a lot more. The Bushmaster MOE Enhanced ORC demonstrates this. Wearing furniture that is far improved over mil-spec, dependable and yet still affordable, I consider this weapon to be far superior to its 5.56mm counterparts for many tactical applications. While just as accurate, it delivers more foot-pounds of energy and knockdown power while remaining in a familiar and user-friendly platform. Those who adopt this 7.62mm will be able to utilize it in a number of different roles, and they will find themselves well prepared for a large variety of situations. The 5.56mm certainly fills a niche, but once you experience the power of the 7.62mm, it is hard to go back. For more information, visit [bushmaster.com](http://bushmaster.com) or call 800-883-6229. **BG**

### Performance

#### BUSHMASTER MOE ENHANCED ORC

Load	Velocity	Accuracy
Federal Premium 150 Trophy Copper	2,572	0.92
Remington 165 Swift Scirocco	2,461	0.94
Winchester 150 Razorback HP	2,612	2.50
Winchester 168 Match BTHP	2,516	1.20

*Bullet weight measured in grains, velocity in fps by chronograph, and accuracy in inches for best five-shot groups at 100 yards.*





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# MASTERING THE CARBINE

**Sig Sauer Academy's dynamic training teaches operator-ready tactics! BY DAVID BAHDE**

## Sig Sauer Academy is one of the preeminent firearms training academies in the United States.

Offering training ranging from the simplest concealed-carry class to focused military training, this facility covers it all. State-of-the-art ranges and simulators allow for the most realistic and practical training possible. Professional instructors with decades of real-life training and experience provide the excellent instruction. An open and welcoming demeanor provide a positive and worthwhile experience, leaving you wanting to return as soon as possible. Having toured the facility, attended several courses and met with its director, I can say that the Sig Sauer Academy is an excellent facility for any kind of firearms training.

## ELITE INSTRUCTION

Starting at the Pro Shop, you can see (and buy) most every Sig Sauer weapon. Holsters, clothing, cleaning supplies and other accessories line the walls and floor. The Academy's Pro Shop offers discount on most weapons and accessories for anyone taking the time to visit. Attend training and an even better school rate is available. Many pro shops offer little selection and high prices. Not so with the Sig Sauer Academy. The company makes sure you

get everything you need while providing a discount for being there. Most course fees include the rental of guns, holsters or any other equipment you may need.

Academy Director Adam Painchaud has extensive real-world experience, and he is also a Master-class International Defensive Pistol Association (IDPA) competitor. Painchaud stressed how critical real-world experience is for instructors, especially for police or military training.

All of the Academy's instructors have long and proven backgrounds in the police, security or military worlds. It keeps things focused on the practical, not the popular. Painchaud made this clear when he said, "While a school doctrine is present, instructors are open to other ideas, so long as they are proven, safe and work."

The instructors are charged with making you better, period. There's no dogma here. Painchaud pointed out that while Sig Sauer provides tremendous support to the Academy, they are a standalone entity. Sig Sauer weapons are available, but all training courses welcome the use of any weapon suited to professional use. Constantly being asked if you need to bring one of the company's guns to train, Painchaud made it clear that is not the case. The training is based around the use of all of the modern and most-used weapons on the market.

The Sig Sauer Academy is well equipped, with a number of new ranges on the horizon. The rifle deck allows for shooting with ease out to 300 yards, and even ranges out to 800-plus yards. Take a short walk or drive and you can target out to 1,000 yards on yet another range.

The facility's "Area 51" includes a rifle range and a pair of apparatus that require you to climb and move through obstacles while shooting from unconventional positions. Barricades were present as well as other obstacles. Moving around the facility, there were several 25-yard ranges that supported the competitive world with steel, rotating and knock-down targets.

A small city consisting of a number of containers allows for serious scenario training for law enforcement and civilians alike. Called the Tactical Area, it is dedicated to realistic application. There are also research and development areas for special operators, force-on-force areas and numerous classrooms. The Sig Sauer Academy can facilitate pretty much any training necessary involving a firearm for law enforcement, the military, competitors or anyone seeking professional firearms instruction.

The Sig Sauer Academy offers a number of courses, ranging in length from a half-day to five days. Levels start from your first day with a rifle to intense

advanced training using simulators and force-on-force training. Specialty courses are available for law enforcement, the military, contractors and other professionals. As a year-round facility, there are even classes designed to teach operation in serious winter conditions. Progressive classes build on each other, and the Academy offers days and times to work around just about any shooter's schedule.

Rifle/Carbine Orientation (Rifle 101) is one course designed around the typical AR while facilitating other carbines. An entry-level course, it guides the new owner or shooter through basic safety, operation, handling and maintenance. It provides what you need to safely handle and operate your rifle in preparation for training geared more towards application. Rifle 102 adds manipulation skills, along with basic skills preparing for the next step. These courses can be taken back to back or separate depending on your personal schedule.

Defensive Rifle is a two-day intermediate course designed to take basic operation to the next level. After a quick review of basic handling skills, the class moves into practical defensive rifle shooting. Addressing application from near to far, it also

**The Sig Sauer Academy teaches students to be able to fight back from real-world positions, including behind and around barricades.**

Photo courtesy Sig Sauer Academy



provides scenario training. Various carry methods, ready positions and shooting positions are covered. Shooting on the move and utilizing cover and concealment are added.

Having attended this class, I can honestly say that it is excellent. It really gets you prepared for more advanced training. We fired out to 100 yards and fired on the move, and we also covered transitions to secondary weapons. Time was spent in unconventional positions and working around barricades.

The last day was

spent working on the "twin towers," requiring you to climb and move through the tower while shooting from various positions. Nothing in that tower is "normal," requiring you to shoot from both sides, seldom with anything resembling comfort. It also gets your heart rate up by simulating the stress of real-life engagements. It is an intense and fruitful two days, with lots of trigger time and practical and useful drills. It was a great time!

Advanced Defensive Rifle takes your carbine skills to the next level. Building on the Defensive Rifle course, more complicated and dynamic movement is added. Operations in close quarters along with tactical live-fire movements are provided. Working in and around vehicles is the

Photo courtesy Sig Sauer



culmination of the class. Completion of this two-day course leaves you with the knowledge, skill and ability to survive and prevail in many deadly-force encounters using your carbine at any practical range.

Keeping your skills sharp requires regular training, and Sig Sauer Academy offers various courses for just that purpose. Single-day classes often focus on specific skill sets. Dynamic Performance Rifle has a strict focus on accuracy both from static positions and on the move. Getting set up, calling your shots and engaging multiple targets are covered. Rifle 101 is taught in the evening hours to teach the basics of nighttime operation. Mid Range Carbine enhances use of the carbine out to 300 yards. Cold Weather Carbine is all shooting and no classroom instruction, offering nothing but experienced instruction and the use of your rifle and equipment in cold weather conditions.

Unique to Sig Sauer Academy is the Skill Builder Class. A half or full day in length, it is taught with an open format for experienced trainers. The class is built upon the experience level of the attendees. Each class is molded to meet the needs of the individuals in the class, making them perfect for working on your particular needs. It allows you to get focused training on just what you need.

## TACTICAL RESPONSE

Sig Sauer Academy's motto is "Where the professionals train," and in my experience the facility lives up to that ideal nicely. Instructors are well trained, experienced and professional. Classes are well structured, practical and geared towards most any student, including the most advanced. Ranges are available to meet any practical need and are well kept, safe and properly maintained. With a curriculum that is well structured yet lacking in dogma, Sig Sauer Academy is, above all, professional. In order for training to "stick," it needs to be well delivered and practical. The more positive the environment the better, and Sig Sauer Academy has it all. If you are looking for top training from a professional staff using a state-of-the-art facility, the Sig Sauer Academy is just the place. For

more, call 603-610-3400 or visit [sigsaueracademy.com](http://sigsaueracademy.com).

**BG**



# SMITH & WESSON SENTRY

**From LEOs to home defenders,  
the 5.56mm M&P15T is primed for action!**

BY RICHARD JOHNSON

**Rifles have proven their usefulness as self-defense and law enforcement tools time and time again.**

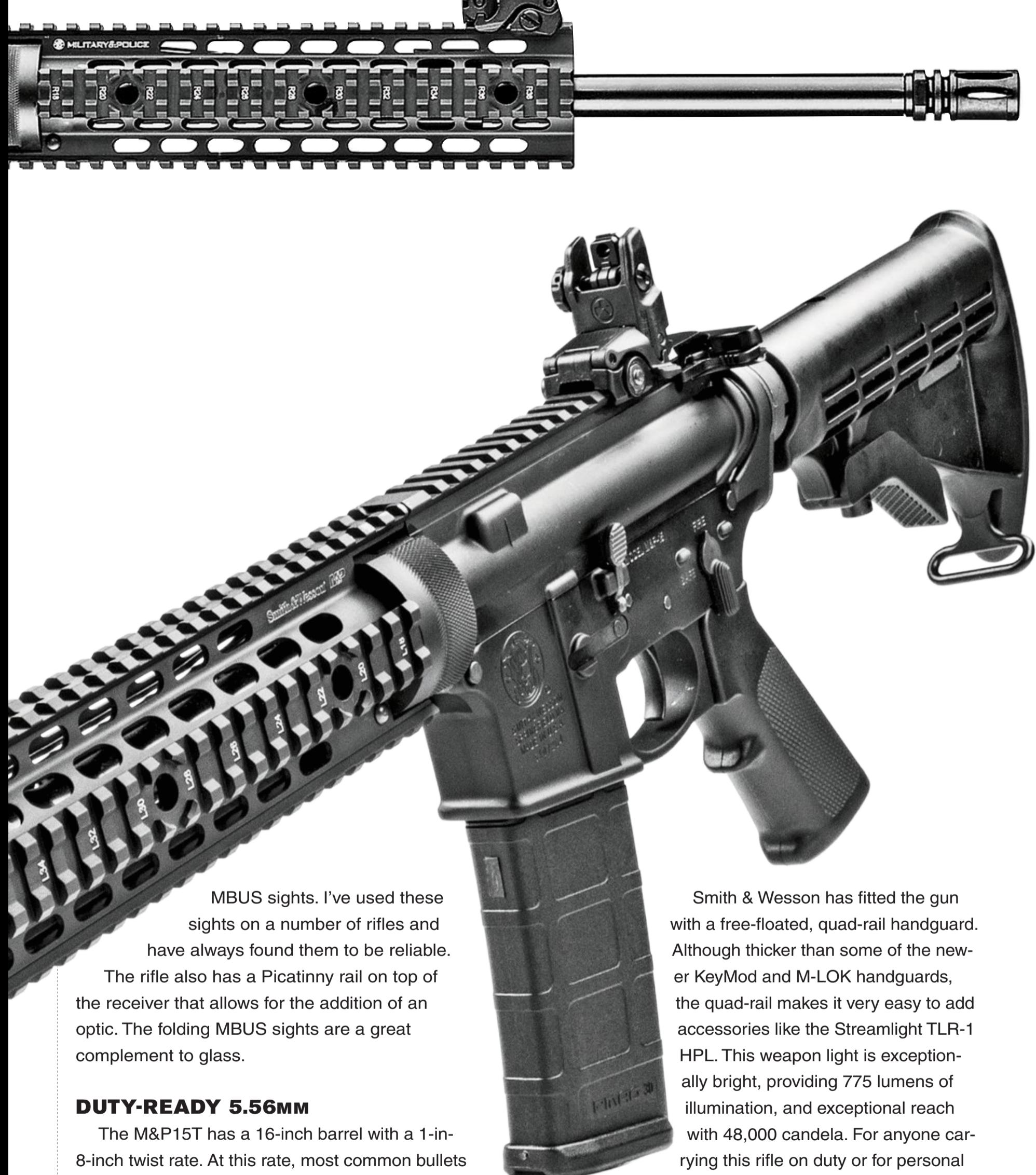
Finding an AR-pattern gun with just the right equipment is important. Fortunately, Smith & Wesson offers a broad range of rifles and likely has one to satisfy your requirements.

One of those guns, the M&P15T, will meet the needs of many people. Frankly, this is the gun I wish I had when I was still pushing a patrol car around my district. While no tool is ever perfect, the M&P15T is certainly well equipped for police work and has a great reputation for reliability. These same features make it great for home defense as well.

On top, Smith & Wesson has outfitted the rifle with Magpul

Nicely equipped with a free-floating, quad-rail handguard for accessories and flip-up Magpul MBUS sights, the Smith & Wesson M&P15T is ready for the range or mean streets right out of the box.





MBUS sights. I've used these sights on a number of rifles and have always found them to be reliable.

The rifle also has a Picatinny rail on top of the receiver that allows for the addition of an optic. The folding MBUS sights are a great complement to glass.

#### DUTY-READY 5.56MM

The M&P15T has a 16-inch barrel with a 1-in-8-inch twist rate. At this rate, most common bullets will be stabilized for accurate fire. I currently keep Hornady 55-grain TAP loads in my own home defense AR-15, and the M&P15T was very accurate with them. Likewise, it did very well with heavier 69-grain OTM MatchKing bullets loaded by Gorilla Ammunition.

Smith & Wesson has fitted the gun with a free-floated, quad-rail handguard. Although thicker than some of the newer KeyMod and M-LOK handguards, the quad-rail makes it very easy to add accessories like the Streamlight TLR-1 HPL. This weapon light is exceptionally bright, providing 775 lumens of illumination, and exceptional reach with 48,000 candela. For anyone carrying this rifle on duty or for personal protection, a white light should be mandatory and the TLR-1 HPL is well suited to this role.

A single 30-round Magpul PMAG magazine is included with the rifle. All standard AR-15 magazines will work with this rifle and drop free without issue. Smith &



## SIX MORE SMITH & WESSON M&Ps



### M&P10

From barrier penetration to knockdown power, many shooters prefer to step up to the 7.62mm cartridge. Heavier bullets with more energy offer a shooter the ability to more reliably complete various missions. Smith & Wesson delivers the M&P10 with the features demanded by many users. The 18-inch barrel has a 1-in-10-inch twist and an enhanced flash suppressor. The rifle's bolt catch, magazine release and safety selector are ambidextrous. These rifles come with low-profile gas blocks and a Picatinny rail on top of the receiver for the easy addition of any kind of optic you might require.

#### SPECIFICATIONS

**Caliber:** 7.62mm • **Barrel:** 18 inches • **OA Length:** 37.6-40.9 inches  
**Weight:** 7.71 pounds • **Stock:** Six-position adjustable  
**Sights:** None • **Action:** Direct impingement semi-auto  
**Finish:** Matte black • **Capacity:** 20+1 • **MSRP:** \$1,619



### M&P15

The base M&P15 is an excellent example of the modern version of America's favorite gun. Equipped with a six-position buttstock, the rifle can be adjusted to shooters of various sizes, including those wearing body armor. Traditional aperture sights are easy to use and can quickly be mastered with only a small amount of training. The bore, gas key and bolt carrier are all chrome lined, while the receiver and barrel are hard coat anodized.

#### SPECIFICATIONS

**Caliber:** 5.56mm • **Barrel:** 16 inches • **OA Length:** 32-35 inches  
**Weight:** 6.74 pounds • **Stock:** Six-position adjustable  
**Sights:** A2-style front and rear • **Action:** Direct impingement semi-auto  
**Finish:** Matte black • **Capacity:** 30+1 • **MSRP:** \$1,249



### M&P15 SPORT

A shooter would be hard pressed to find a better gun value than the M&P15 Sport. This rifle carries a retail price of only \$739, yet it comes ready to run, including sights and a 30-round Magpul PMAG magazine. Like its more expensive brothers, the M&P15 Sport is equipped with an adjustable stock, a 4140 steel barrel and 7075-T6 aluminum receivers. Chambered for the 5.56mm cartridge, the 16-inch barrel has a 1-in-9-inch twist rate. An A2-style muzzle device is also standard. Smith & Wesson was able to keep the rifle's weight under 6.5 pounds, making the gun easier to carry over long distances.

#### SPECIFICATIONS

**Caliber:** 5.56mm • **Barrel:** 16 inches • **OA Length:** 32-35 inches  
**Weight:** 6.45 pounds • **Stock:** Six-position adjustable  
**Sights:** A2-style front, Magpul MBUS rear  
**Action:** Direct impingement semi-auto  
**Finish:** Matte black • **Capacity:** 30+1 • **MSRP:** \$739



### M&P15 VTAC II

In collaboration with Kyle Lamb of Viking Tactics, Smith & Wesson developed the VTAC II. The rifle uses a new flash suppressor design to reduce the flash signature and help tame recoil. Additionally, the VTAC II uses a mid-length gas system to enhance reliability and further moderate recoil. Up front, a free-floated VTAC rail system is used. The rail comes with a light mount and standard QD attachment points. A black Viking Tactics sling is also included with the gun. Finally, the rifle is equipped with an adjustable Vltor stock.

#### SPECIFICATIONS

**Caliber:** 5.56mm • **Barrel:** 16 inches • **OA Length:** 33.5-36.75 inches  
**Weight:** 6.28 pounds • **Stock:** Vltor IMod • **Sights:** None  
**Action:** Direct impingement semi-auto • **Finish:** Matte black  
**Capacity:** 30+1 • **MSRP:** \$1,949



### M&P15 MOE MID

Equipped with some of the more popular Magpul aftermarket accessories, the MOE Mid will satisfy most shooters. Smith & Wesson outfitted this rifle with a mid-length gas system and finished it off with furniture in Flat Dark Earth. Magpul parts that are standard on this rifle include an MOE adjustable stock, an MOE pistol grip, an MOE handguard, a 30-round PMAG magazine and an MVG vertical grip. An MBUS rear sight complements the A2-style front sight.

#### SPECIFICATIONS

**Caliber:** 5.56mm • **Barrel:** 16 inches (with suppressor)  
**OA Length:** 33.75-37 inches • **Weight:** 6.54 pounds • **Stock:** Magpul MOE  
**Sights:** A2-style front, Magpul MBUS rear • **Finish:** Matte black  
**Action:** Direct impingement semi-auto • **Capacity:** 30+1 • **MSRP:** \$1,259



### M&P15 TS

Compact, lightweight and well appointed all describe the M&P15 TS. This rifle uses a 14.5-inch barrel with a 1-in-7-inch twist and a Smith Enterprise Vortex flash suppressor permanently attached to keep the overall length down. The one-piece, 13-inch Troy TRX Extreme free-floating handguard keeps the package light, yet it still provides the capability for securely adding tactical accessories. Smith & Wesson outfitted this rifle with a Magpul MOE stock, pistol grip and folding MBUS sights. The company also includes one 30-round PMAG magazine.

#### SPECIFICATIONS

**Caliber:** 5.56mm • **Barrel:** 16.1 inches (with suppressor)  
**OA Length:** 31-34 inches • **Weight:** 6 pounds • **Stock:** Magpul MOE  
**Sights:** Magpul MBUS • **Finish:** Matte black  
**Capacity:** 30+1 • **MSRP:** \$1,569

Wesson also offers a version of this rifle with a fixed, 10-round magazine for where required by law. These artificially reduced-capacity rifles are equipped with the "bullet button." Pricing remains the same on both versions of the gun.

Smith & Wesson built the rifle on 7075-T6 aluminum upper and lower receivers. These parts were hard coat anodized, and both the bolt carrier and the gas key are chromed. The barrel has a Melonite finish to prevent corrosion. I have several Smith & Wesson guns with a Melonite finish and can unequivocally state that it works very well to protect the metal from corrosion.

## RANGE TEST

Living in what may be the high water mark of firearm manufacturing, it is not surprising to find that most companies' stock production guns run flawlessly from the factory. Combining modern manufacturing technology with the relatively debugged AR-15 platform means that Smith & Wesson should be producing guns that perform well on the range. I found this to be true when I took the M&P15T out for testing.

## SMITH & WESSON M&P15T

### Specifications

<b>Caliber:</b>	5.56mm
<b>Barrel:</b>	16 inches
<b>OA Length:</b>	32-35 inches
<b>Weight:</b>	6.85 pounds
<b>Stock:</b>	Six-position adjustable
<b>Sights:</b>	Magpul MBUS
<b>Action:</b>	Direct impingement, semi-auto
<b>Finish:</b>	Matte black
<b>Capacity:</b>	30+1
<b>MSRP:</b>	\$1,159

### Performance

#### Load

Load	Velocity	Accuracy
Gorilla Ammunition 69 OTM	2,637	1.37
Hornady 55 TAP	2,771	1.25
HPR Ammunition 60 V-MAX	2,498	1.62

*Bullet weight measured in grains, velocity in fps by chronograph and accuracy in inches for best five-shot groups at 100 yards.*

The M&P15T's accuracy was very good when shooting off of a sandbag and using the Magpul sights. Using the 55-grain TAP load from Hornady, I managed a best group of 1.25 inches. As I mentioned earlier, other loads, such as the 69-grain load from Gorilla Ammunition, were also accurate. With glass instead of iron sights, I suspect I could have tightened these groups up even more.

All bullet styles and load lengths fed fine in this rifle. In addition to the provided

PMAG, I ran the gun with a number of different magazines, including aluminum Brownells magazines and polymer mags from Troy Industries and TAPCO. None of the magazines showed any signs of causing a problem.

With the quad-rail handguard, the gun was slightly heavier than other AR-15 rifles I have recently shot. Even so, the weight of the gun is less than 7 pounds, and the rifle is well balanced and pointed well. If rested on an improvised rest like a

"VERY HAPPY. IT'S VERY LIGHTWEIGHT AND HOLDS A GROUP LIKE A CHAMP."

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 **SMITH & WESSON SENTRY**

## MTUL MagBrush

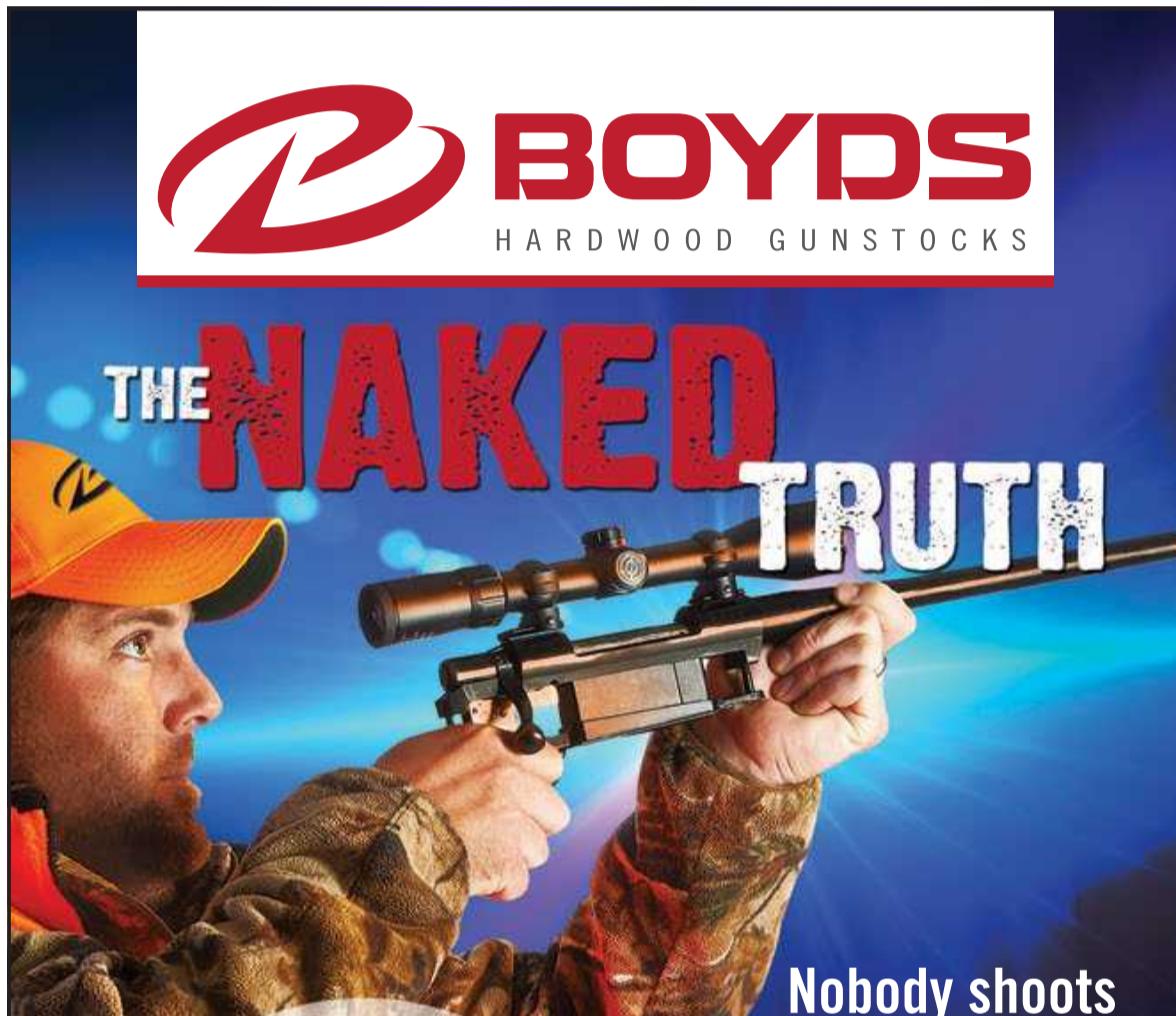


**By Michael O. Humphries**

The MTUL MagBrush from GTUL is designed to make cleaning of AR, AK, FAL and all other double-column rifle magazines that hold 5.56mm or 7.62mm ammo a breeze. The curve of the 9-inch-long, U-shaped brush follows the contour of the magazines and is long enough to clean even those that hold 40 rounds. The heavy-duty construction makes it stout enough to depress the follower and magazine spring without disassembly for fast and easy use. At the opposite end of the handle is a punch to disassemble magazines that have removable floorplates. (mygtul.com; 757-647-0805)

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backpack, the weight will do nothing but reduce the felt recoil.

If you are looking for a solid-performing AR-15 rifle equipped with a quad-rail handguard, the M&P15T should be on your short list of models to consider. In my testing, the gun ran well and experienced no malfunctions. Add to this that the finishing work on the gun was excellent and I think this rifle would satisfy the needs of many shooters.

The only potential drawback that I found with this rifle is that the quad rail is somewhat bulky and heavy when compared to other types of accessory mounting handguards. However, as many people are looking for an AR-15 with a quad rail, this is better described as a feature, not a drawback. If the features of this rifle meet your needs, I unreservedly recommend it. For more information, visit [smithwesson.com](http://smithwesson.com) or call 800-331-0852. **BG**



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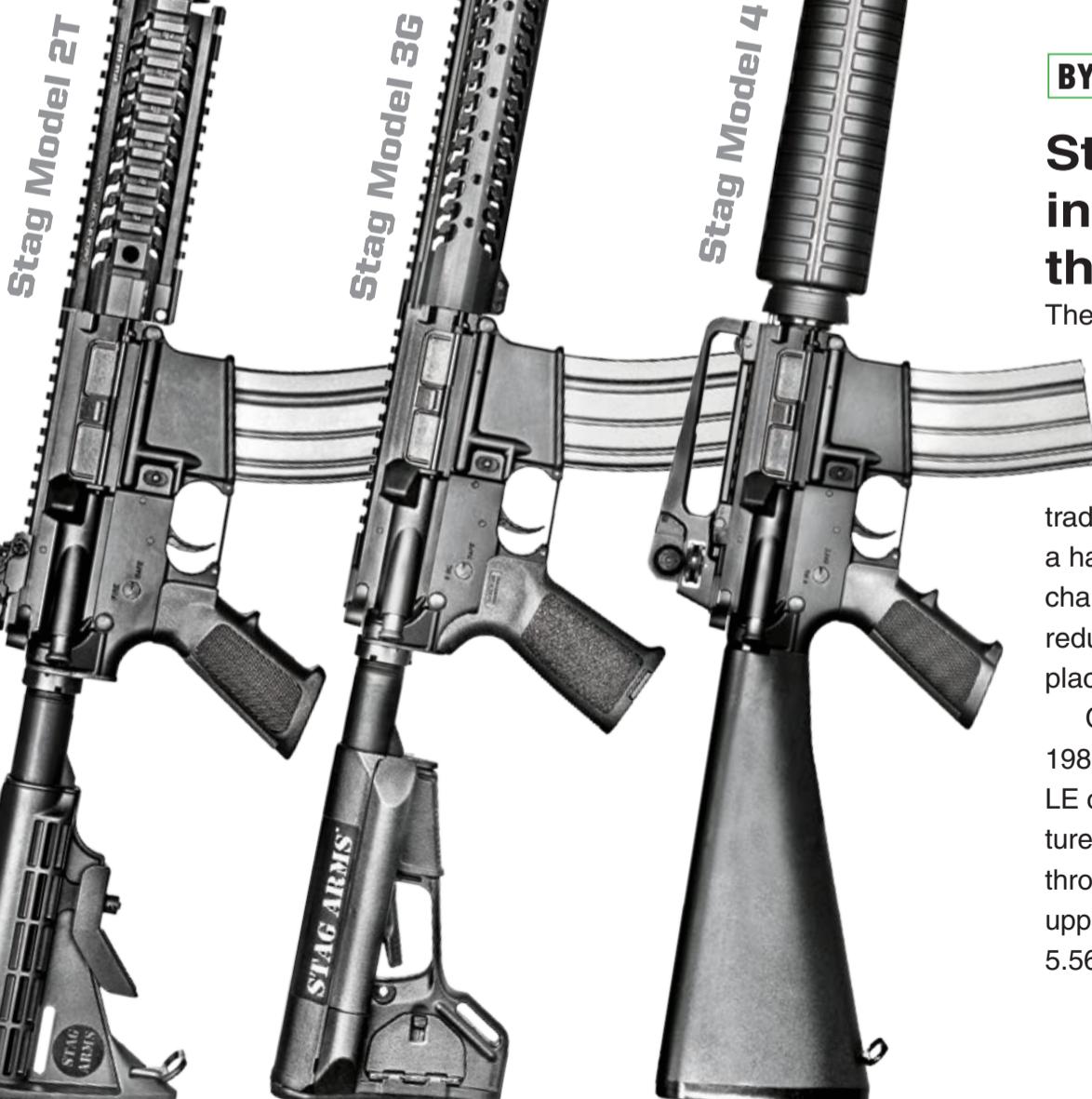




# STAG ARMS



From the 9mm 9T to 3-Gun



BY ROBERT A. SADOWSKI

**Stag Arms continues to innovate on and improve the AR rifle platform.**

The company's semi-automatic Model 9T is designed to fire the 9mm cartridge, offering the familiarity of the 5.56mm AR platform with a popular and inexpensive cartridge.

Pistol-caliber carbines are an American tradition with shooters who favor a long gun and a handgun that share the same caliber. A carbine chambered in 9mm means less perceived recoil, reduced muzzle blast and more accurately placed bullets downrange.

Colt has chambered ARs in 9mm since the 1980s, and still catalogues them for military and LE customers. Since then, some AR manufacturers have offered adaptor kits to fire 9mm ammo through an AR platform consisting of a 9mm upper, a drop-in magazine block to make the 5.56mm mag well compatible with 9mm maga-

**Stag Model 9TL**

IN A



**contenders like the 3G, these purpose-built ARs are ready for hard use!**

zines and straight stick magazines. Early AR 9mm magazines were made from Uzi mags. Stag Arms, however, decided to build a 9mm AR from the ground up using a dedicated 9mm AR lower and upper.

### **BLOWBACK AR**

The standard Model 9T and left-hand 9TL have a 16-inch, 4140 steel barrel with a 1-in-10-inch twist rate. The bore and chamber are chromed. An A2 flash suppressor is attached to the muzzle. What sets the 9T 9mm AR apart from an AR chambered in 5.56mm or any other rifle caliber is its operating system. The 9T uses a simple blowback system, not a direct impingement or gas piston system.

There is no gas block, gas tube or piston on the 9T. The bolt carrier group for the 9T is noticeably different than the bolt carrier group on a direct gas impingement

system. It is heavier on the 9T than on a traditional AR-15 bolt carrier since the blowback system works off the resistance of the bolt weight and the recoil/buffer spring. The upper half of the system uses a one-piece bolt and carrier with a modified ejection port cover and an enlarged brass deflector. The lower half is also different as it uses a dedicated magazine well to accept the skinny stick magazines.

The 9T's hammer and recoil buffer are also specially designed to work with the blowback action. Plus, the magazine catch is designed to work with the stick mags as well as standard Colt-style 9mm AR magazines; these are straight sticks using a double-stack design. The 9T's magazine features a steel body with witness holes and a polymer follower that is molded in bright orange so you can quickly see the magazine is unloaded when the bolt is

locked back. These magazines lock back the bolt when the last shot is fired.

What remains the same on the 9T are the AR platform's controls. The safety selector, charging handle, magazine release and bolt release all function similarly to those on other AR-style rifles. Stag Arms uses a free-floating, 13.5-inch Diamondhead VRS-T modular handguard and Diamondhead's aluminum flip-up sights. The full-length top rail offers plenty of room and options for mounting an optic. The handguard is also drilled and tapped at the 3, 6, and 9 o'clock positions so a Picatinny rail can be added for a tactical light, a vertical grip or a laser aiming device. Slots on the sides and bottom of the handguard allow ample cooling of the barrel. The six-position, adjustable buttstock is mil-spec style, as is the A2-style pistol grip.

**RANGE REPORT**

I had the opportunity to run a 9T variant and found the carbine accurate with most any ammo I fed it. Being an AR, the rifle's ramp up time was nil; I easily adapted to the carbine. Reloading the skinny stick magazines felt a bit odd at first, but other than that the 9T performed like I expected, albeit with less recoil, less blast and less noise.

I mounted a Meprolight Tru-Dot RDS red-dot sight on the 9T, and they seemed like a perfect pairing from the start as the RDS co-witnessed with the all-metal Diamondhead iron sights. The RDS uses a 1.8-MOA dot reticle that offers rapid target acquisition with both eyes open. The sight's four brightness settings include three for day/night use and one for use with Gen II and Gen III NVGs as well as with magnifiers.

I also acquired three additional Colt-style magazines from Brownells to perform fast reload drills with the 9T.

# THE SHORT & LONG OF IT

By Michael O. Humphries

Both the 9mm and the 5.56mm have long histories of military service. While the 9mm is primarily a handgun round and the 5.56mm a carbine round, the 9mm has been employed in long guns in certain cases and specific roles. Here are some specifics on the capabilities and characteristics of the two rounds.

	9mm	5.56mm
Common Bullet Weights:	115-147	55-77
Muzzle Velocity:	1,300-1,000	3,200-2,750
Bullet Diameter:	9mm	5.56mm
Case Length:	19mm	45mm

Bullet weights measured in grains and velocity in fps from a 16-inch barrel.



pushed the magazine in and then pulled down on it to ensure it was seated. I then operated the bolt catch as I normally do.

After zeroing, I loaded all four magazines: one with Winchester 115-grain FMJs, one with Hornady's 115-grain JHPs and the third with Atlanta Arms' 147-grain FMJs. The fourth was loaded with a mix of ammo to see if I could slip up the 9T. Older 9mm ARs are notorious for their failures due to inferior magazines, but the Stag Arms' magazine and the Brownells mags fed the

Model 9T with absolutely no issues. The low recoil and blast was notable, and I found I could get on, and stay on, target easier with the 9T.

The single-stage trigger broke at an average of 5.9 pounds, which is a good setting for tactical use and home defense. Using a benchrest, I was able to get some 2.5-inch groups at 25 yards. The best group was with Winchester

Brownells magazines are made with steel bodies and steel followers. They have a slick Xylan finish for smoother operation and, like the Stag Arms factory magazine, have a 32-round capacity.

Manipulating the stick magazine into the 9T's mag well took a bit of re-learning since the magazine well is as small as a pistol's magazine well. The beveled edges made manipulation easier, however. I

## Specifications

### STAG ARMS MODEL 9TL

Caliber:	9mm
Barrel:	16 inches
OA Length:	32.5-35.75 inches
Weight:	7.9 pounds (empty)
Stock:	Collapsible
Sights:	Diamondhead flip-up front and rear
Action:	Blowback, semi-auto
Finish:	Matte black
Capacity:	32+1
MSRP:	\$1,275

### STAG ARMS MODEL 2T

Caliber:	5.56mm NATO
Barrel:	16 inches
OA Length:	32.5-35.75 inches
Weight:	6.8 pounds (empty)
Stock:	Collapsible
Sights:	A2 front, ARMS 40L rear
Action:	Direct impingement semi-auto
Finish:	Matte black
Capacity:	30+1
MSRP:	\$1,130

### STAG ARMS MODEL 1L

Caliber:	5.56mm NATO
Barrel:	16 inches
OA Length:	32.5-35.75 inches
Weight:	7 pounds (empty)
Stock:	Collapsible
Sights:	A2 front and rear
Action:	Direct impingement semi-auto
Finish:	Matte black
Capacity:	30+1
MSRP:	\$989



### STAG ARMS MODEL 3G

Caliber:	5.56mm NATO
Barrel:	18 inches
OA Length:	36-39.5 inches
Weight:	7.8 pounds (empty)
Stock:	Magpul ACS
Sights:	None
Action:	Direct impingement semi-auto
Finish:	Matte black
Capacity:	30+1
MSRP:	\$1,459



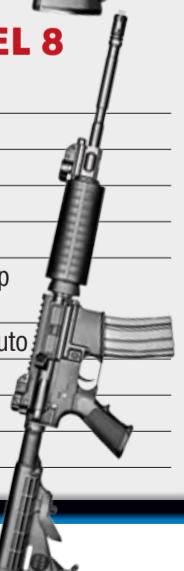
### STAG ARMS MODEL 4

Caliber:	5.56mm NATO
Barrel:	16 inches
OA Length:	39.75 inches
Weight:	8.5 pounds (empty)
Stock:	Fixed
Sights:	A2 front and rear
Action:	Direct impingement semi-auto
Finish:	Matte black
Capacity:	20+1
MSRP:	\$1,015



### STAG ARMS MODEL 8

Caliber:	5.56mm NATO
Barrel:	16 inches
OA Length:	32.5-35.75 inches
Weight:	6.9 pounds (empty)
Stock:	Collapsible
Sights:	Diamondhead flip-up front and rear
Action:	Piston-driven semi-auto
Finish:	Matte black
Capacity:	30+1
MSRP:	\$1,145





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115-grain FMJs, which grouped a five-shot group of 0.75 inches at 25 yards. Firing off-hand and for speed, I averaged 4-inch groups with all the ammo tested.

### ALL TERRAIN

Other Stag Arms AR models are purpose-built for specific scenarios. The Model 1L can be considered a mil-spec AR for left-handed operators. The 1L is built to mil-spec standards and can be considered the civilian, left-hand-friendly version of the M4. The 1L is the mirror image of the Model 1 except the ejection port and safety are on the left side. This entry-level carbine is equipped with a 16-inch barrel with a government profile, a removable carry handle, a six-position stock, A2-style sights and a round handguard.

For home defense and LE work, the Model 2T is a pure tactical fighter that has all the goods, including a free-floating Samson Star-C handguard with quad rails that are ready for accessories like a vertical grip, a laser aiming device or a

### Performance

#### STAG ARMS MODEL 9T

Load	Velocity	Accuracy
Atlanta Arms 147 FMJ	1,024	1.17
Hornady Steel Match 115 JHP	1,338	0.92
Winchester 115 FMJ	1,339	0.75

*Bullet weight measured in grains, velocity in fps by chronograph and accuracy in inches for best five-shot groups at 25 yards.*

tactical light. The 2T is optics ready with backup iron sights—an ARMS #40L folding rear unit and an A2-style front sight. The mil-spec buttstock is adjustable into six distinct positions.

The 3-Gun shooter in the Stag Arms arsenal is the Model 3G. Featuring an 18-inch, free-floated, fluted, stainless steel barrel with a heavy profile and a ported 3G compensator, the 3G is built for speed and accuracy. This flattop carbine comes optics ready. Under the Samson 15-inch Evolution handguard is a full-length gas

tube that produces less felt recoil for more weapon control. Other competition features include a Geissele 3-Gun trigger, a Magpul ACS stock and an MOE grip.

The Model 4 offers traditional A2 style through and through. Set up like a traditional civilian version of the M16A2 with a removable carry handle and an adjustable rear sight, an A2-style adjustable front sight, an A2 pistol grip and buttstock, a round polymer handguard and a two-stage, mil-spec trigger. A 20-inch, heavy-profile barrel is also employed, making the Model 4 an excellent choice for service rifle competition.

All Stag Arms ARs run the standard direct gas impingement system except for the piston-powered Model 8 series, which use Stag Arms' gas piston system. The Model 8 features a 16-inch barrel with an A2-style flash suppressor. This cool-running carbine uses Diamondhead flip-up iron sights and a two-piece polymer handguard. For more information, visit [stagarms.com](http://stagarms.com) or call 860-229-9994. **BG**

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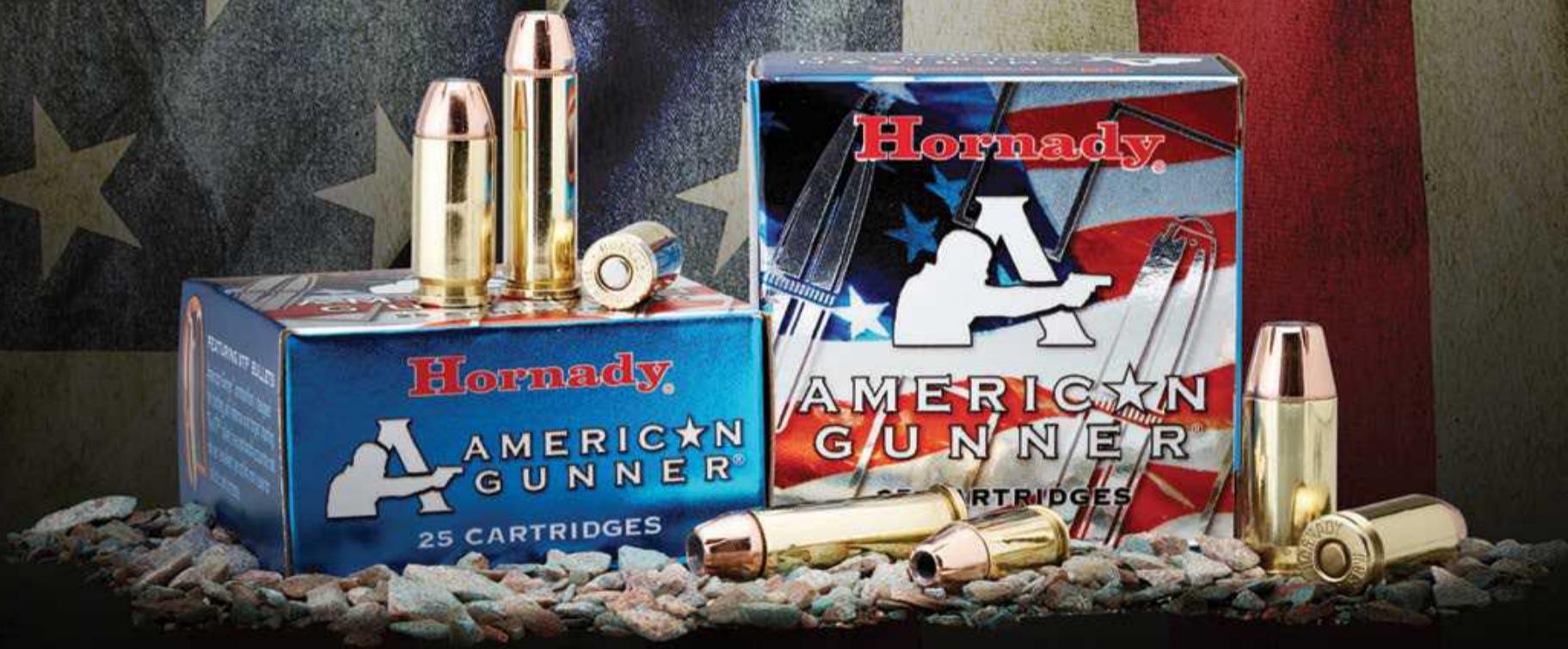


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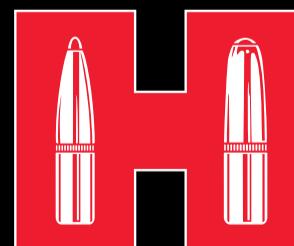
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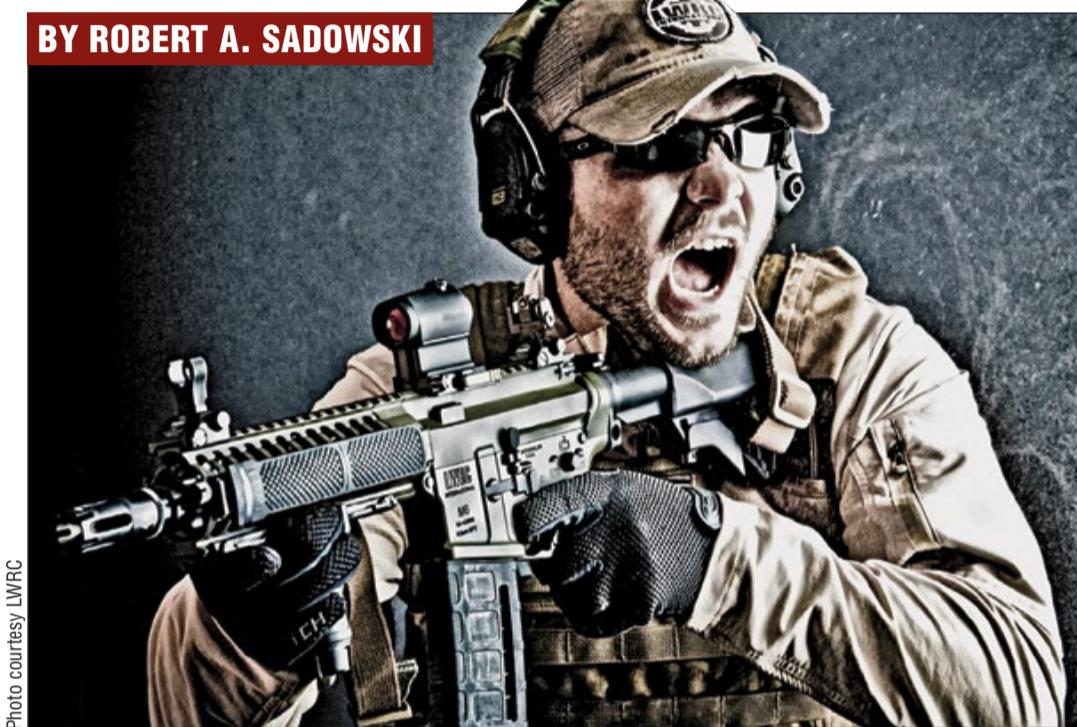
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# BACKUP IRON SIGHTS



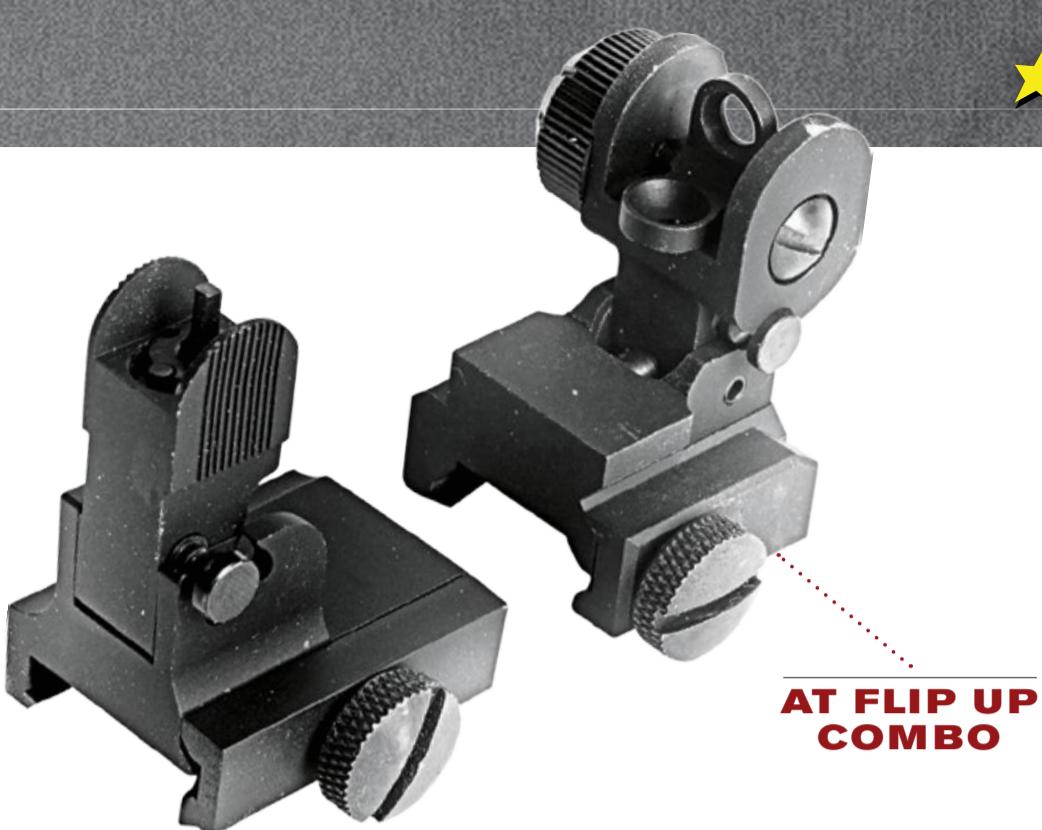
BY ROBERT A. SADOWSKI



**Optics are vastly superior to iron sights until those optics malfunction or fail.**

In the event of optic failure, backup iron sights (BUIS) offer a critical redundancy in the AR platform. Some BUIS can be deployed instantly. With a press of a button the sight flips up and locks into place, allowing an operator to continue with the mission and stay in the fight.





**AT FLIP UP COMBO**

**A.R.M.S. #40 L-F/#40 L COMBO**



**BLACKHAWK FOLDING SIGHTS**



## **A.R.M.S. #40 L-F/#40 L COMBO**

This front and rear sight pair offer a low profile in the folded position. The sights are spring loaded and held in place by a quick-release lever that also ensures the sights are not accidentally deployed. These sights lean slightly to the rear, so they fold back in the correct position if accidentally dropped. The rear sight has dual apertures for different engagement distances. (armsmounts.com; 508-584-7816)

## **AT FLIP UP COMBO**

Flip Up Combo from American Tactical (AT) is an all-metal sight set for use on AR rifles. The rear sight has two apertures and is fully adjustable. The front sight of the system has an adjustable post. AT offers sets for ARs with flattop uppers and railed gas blocks as well as ARs with free-floating rails on the same plane as the upper. (american-tactical.us; 800-290-0065)

## **BLACKHAWK FOLDING SIGHTS**

Delivering top performance with minimal bulk, the BlackHawk folding sight system delivers when it matters. With a push of a button the AR-15 folding rear sight springs up when needed. The front sight, which has an adjustable center post protected by side wings, springs into place just like the rear. Both are constructed with a polymer base and aluminum posts. (blackhawk.com; 800-379-1732)

## **DIAMONDHEAD D-45 INTEGRATED SIGHTING SYSTEM**

The D-45 Integrated Sighting System features 45-degree-offset swing sights. All an operator needs to do is flip out the sights and roll the AR 45 degrees counter-clockwise. The rear sight stows under the eyepiece of a scope and features dual apertures with 0.5-MOA adjustments. The front sight accepts all standard A2 front sight posts. (diamondhead-usa.com; 413-739-6970)

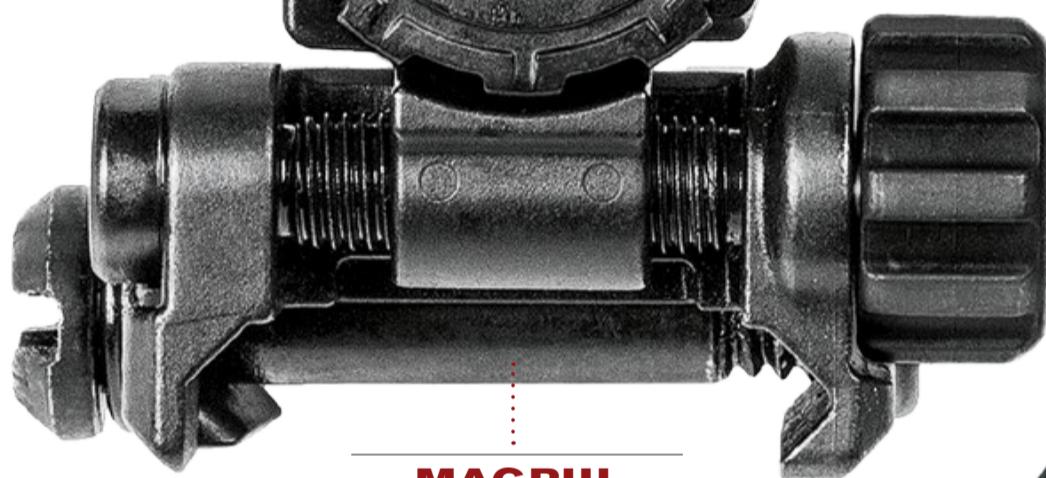
**DIAMONDHEAD D-45 INTEGRATED SIGHTING SYSTEM**



# BACKUP IRON SIGHTS



**“ In the event of optic failure, backup iron sights offer a critical redundancy in the AR platform. ”**



**MAGPUL  
MBUS PRO LR**



**GG&G 45  
DEGREE  
TRANSITION  
SIGHTS**



**MISSION FIRST  
TACTICAL BUPSWF**



**GUNTEC THIN  
PROFILE BUIS  
SIGHT SET**

**PRI FLIP UP  
FRONT SIGHT**



**GG&G 45 DEGREE  
TRANSITION SIGHTS**

Engaging targets at close range is easier with GG&G's 45 Degree Transition Sights. The front and rear combo set are offset at 45 degrees so all an operator does is cant the rifle or carbine to quickly get on target and continue firing. Made of 6061-T6 billet aluminum, the sights install on most Picatinny/Weaver rails. (ggaz.com; 800-380-2540)

**GUNTEC THIN  
PROFILE BUIS  
SIGHT SET**

Made of lightweight yet rugged T6 aluminum with steel inserts, the Guntec Thin Profile BUIS Sight Set features a push-button design that locks the sights to prevent them from folding down during use. This sight set installs on any flattop receiver and Picatinny rail and is designed for same-plane rail heights. (guntecusa.com; 480-478-4517)

**MAGPUL  
MBUS PRO LR**

Built with all-steel construction, the MBUS Pro LR features elevation adjustments to accurately engage targets at variable distances. The unit offers no-tool adjustments in a compact package. Positive detents keep the MBUS Pro LR at standard AR sight height when deployed and low profile when stowed. (magpul.com; 877-462-4785)

**MISSION FIRST  
TACTICAL BUPSWF**

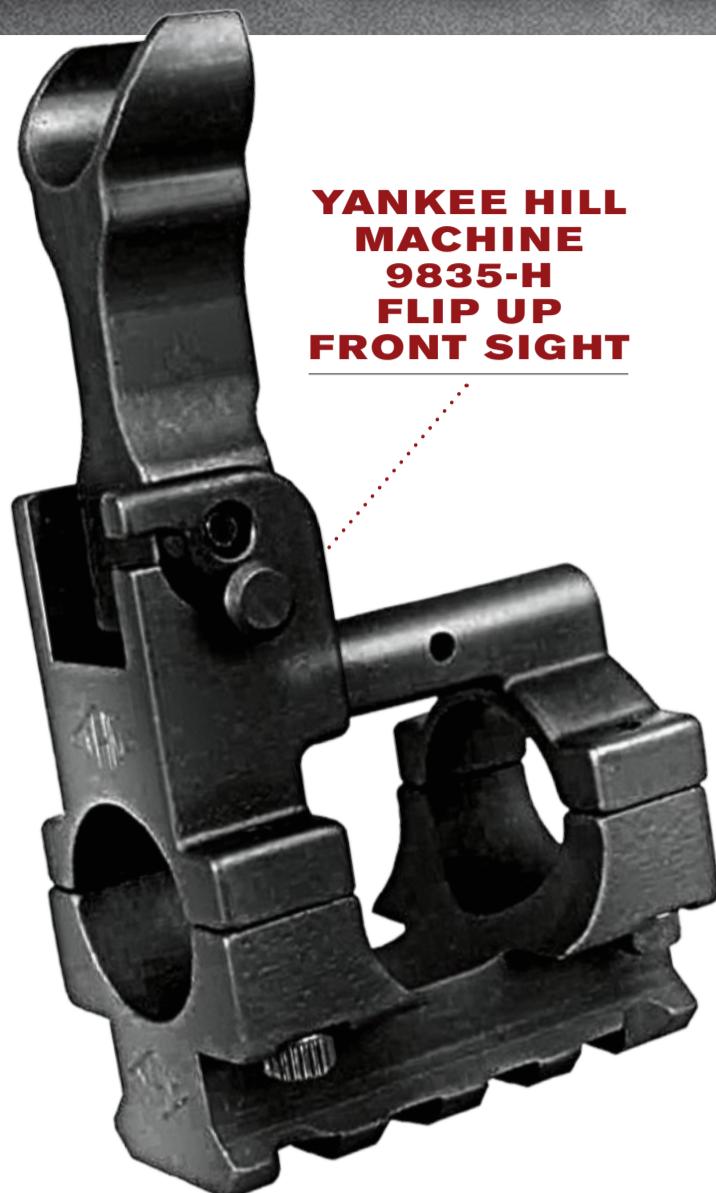
The Back Up Polymer Flip-Up Front Sight with standard iron sight elevation adjustment (BUPSWF) features a shroud that shelters the front post blade from debris and impact damage when not deployed. The sight mounts onto any Picatinny rail and accepts any standard front post blade. The BUPSWF sight is made of reinforced, super-tough polyamide. (missionfirsttactical.com; 267-704-0001)

**PRI FLIP UP  
FRONT SIGHT**

The PRI Flip Up Front Sight fits 0.75-inch-bore-diameter barrels, is simple to install and bolts on with ease. With the PRI sight folded down, the shadow cast on an optic from a fixed sight is eliminated. The circle hood also helps increase target acquisition. The base is constructed of 4140 cast steel and the post is made of T6-6061 aluminum that has been hardcoat anodized black. (precisionreflex.com; 419-629-2603)

# BACKUP IRON SIGHTS

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#### UTG MIL-SPEC SUB-COMPACT REAR SIGHT

#### PROMAG AR-15/M16 FLIP UPS

The Promag rear and front sight system features a spring-loaded release for quick access. The rear sight has two apertures and is adjustable via a knob and the front sight has a wing-protected adjustable post. Made from T6 aircraft-grade aluminum with a black phosphate mil-spec finish, both mount to most Picatinny/Weaver rails. Polymer versions are also available. (promagindustries.com; 800-438-2547)

#### UTG MIL-SPEC SUB-COMPACT REAR SIGHT

The UTG Mil-Spec Sub-Compact Rear Sight is fully adjustable for windage and elevation. Made of aluminum and steel with a matte black finish, the rear sight offers a spring-loaded detent for positioning and repeatable adjustments. The sight is the exact height required for co-witnessing with a standard mil-spec-style front sight. (leapers.com; 734-542-1500)

#### YANKEE HILL MACHINE 9835-H FLIP UP FRONT SIGHT

The YHM-9835-H flip-up front sight is convenient as well as versatile with a built-in bottom Picatinny rail. The built-in gas block has a bore diameter of 0.75 inches and is completely made of steel. The unit is available with either a round, hooded front sight guard for fast and accurate sighting or a standard-style front sight guard. (yhm.net; 877-892-6533)

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The new SP10 offers the range, power and accuracy today's shooters need. Shown with a Bushnell Elite Tactical XRS 4.5-30x50mm scope, an Atlas bipod and an X Products X-25 drum mag.





# SEEKINS PRECISION

# SP10 7.62 MM

## turns cover into concealment out to 900 YARDS! BY DAVID BAHDE

### Seekins Precision has established a reputation for making some of the finest AR receivers and parts available.

Many custom makers choose Seekins' receiver sets, handguards and other parts to complete their builds. The company's innovative designs are useful while being stylish and professional looking. Everything built into Seekins' rifles works, even if it's only to keep the weight and balance proper. The company also offers some of the best handguards on the market that can cover your suppressor and provide the perfect platform for precision applications. Several of my best custom rifles started with receivers and handguards from Seekins Precision.

When the company started building complete rifles, its attention to detail and high quality produced some of the finest ARs out there. I've tested Seekins' 5.56mm rifles, along with an SBR in 300 Blackout, which have all proven to be excellent. It was only a matter of time before the company introduced a .308 Winchester/7.62mm NATO version.

While attending the opening ceremony for Seekins' new facility last year, I got a chance to inspect a working prototype of what would become the SP10. The lightweight rifle included several custom touches and clean lines. Introduced this year, I finally got a chance to wring the 7.62mm SP10 out at the range.

### GUN DETAILS

The SP10 starts with CNC-machined billet receivers. Unlike many builders using 6061-T6 aluminum to save on costs, Seekins Precision uses 7075-T6 aluminum for superior strength. The company's receivers and handguards have always had a very nice look and feel, and this rifle was no exception. You'll notice various cuts throughout the rifle's design to save weight without compromising strength or rigidity. The receivers and handguard also lock up tightly, with no gaps or sharp edges. Clearly a lot of thought went into this build—it's not just a bigger version of the company's 5.56mm rifles.

The match-grade, stainless steel, 18-inch barrel is contoured to provide the best balance and accuracy. It has a 1-in-10-inch

twist rate as well as 5/8x24 threading for suppressor use. Seekins ships the SP10 with an ATC muzzle brake installed.

Surrounding the barrel and gas system is Seekins' flat-bottomed, 15-inch-long SP3R handguard, which facilitates shooting from barricades, bags or other obstacles. This handguard has quickly become a favorite among 3-Gun and precision rifle competitors because of its incredible versatility. Its long top rail mates with the upper receiver's for a long, uninterrupted plane for mounting sights or optics. It's also lightweight and free-floating, and KeyMod slots along the sides and bottom provide tons of space for adding accessories as needed, or you can keep the SP3R smooth for a comfortable hold. Finally, rounding out the upper receiver is an extended BCM Gunfighter Mod 3 charging handle.

The SP10's lower receiver includes ambidextrous magazine and bolt releases. Redesigned for the 7.62mm NATO, the unique right-side bolt release is slim, sleek and easy to operate. The rifle also features the company's new ambidextrous, 60-degree safety selector, which looks nice and operates crisply. The safety



lever on the strong side is a little longer for easier operation from prone. This kind of safety is great for a precision rifle, and the pictorial markings on the receiver are easy to read. The lower receiver's retention pins extend just enough to make it easy to separate the receivers when necessary.

For enhanced precision, a crisp, single-stage CMC trigger is installed. Totally self-contained with nothing to come loose, these triggers are built to be used in duty applications. An Ergo grip provides excellent control and comfort. The standard carbine buffer tube sports a Magpul STR stock and houses Seekins' proprietary buffer system. Consisting of a longer flat spring, a metal buffer and a polymer spacer, it's designed for soft, reliable shooting.

### RANGE TIME

Given that this rifle may end up in a 3-Gun match, or as a patrol rifle, I tested the SP10 with a Trijicon SRS red dot as well as an Atlas bipod. Built to survive the harshest conditions, the parallax-free SRS runs on a single AA battery, which assists the solar-cell-powered, 1.75-MOA reticle. In essence, the SRS was designed to provide a field of view that does not feel like you are looking through a tube, and it certainly delivers. In my opinion, it offers the cleanest field of view of any red dot I've used.

At the range, I warmed up the SRS-equipped SP10 with some police rifle-type shooting at 100 yards and closer. Many agencies, especially those with longer engagement distances, are authorizing 7.62mm rifles for patrol use. In these situations, officers can mount optics, but many prefer a simple red-dot or reflex sight. This configuration proved very handy. Starting at just under 9 pounds, adding a sight and sling did not affect the SP10's balance very much.

### Specifications

#### SEEKINS PRECISION SP10

Caliber:	7.62mm NATO
Barrel:	18 inches
OA Length:	39 inches
Weight:	8.9 pounds (empty)
Stock:	Magpul STR
Sights:	None
Action:	Direct impingement semi-auto
Finish:	Matte black
Capacity:	20+1
MSRP:	\$2,489

Working around my truck, barricades and various obstacles, it was easy to be accurate with the rifle. The flat-bottomed handguard helped me keep the rifle stable. You can use a bipod for more stability, but the SP10 worked fine with just a small bag and even a pack for support. The SP10's accuracy was excellent, and it was very fast on target. As a two-stage-trigger kind of guy, the CMC took some getting used to, but once I was dialed in, it was excellent.

The next phase of testing revolved around the SP10's use as an AR-style precision rifle. I have little doubt that this receiver set is going to see its way into Precision Rifle Series (PRS) competitions very quickly. The SP10 is also just about perfect for a DMR or dedicated police precision rifle in 7.62mm NATO. To this end I installed a Bushnell Elite Tactical XRS 4.5-30x50mm scope using an Alamo Four Star mount. This scope has proven to be accurate and consistent, with its Horus H59 reticle mounted in the first focal plane. The scope's large tactile adjustments are easy to use, and its overall length allows for night-vision use on most rifles.

I moved to the 400-yard range and fired from various positions—mostly unconventional—and the SP10's balance was excellent. I was able to get into modified kneeling, seated and standing positions pretty easily. Because of the rifle's balance and accuracy, it was possible to get solid hits on steel most of the time. I rarely missed any of the steel targets between 200 and 400 yards. Once the Bushnell scope was dialed in, the Horus reticle did its job well. Moving out to 600, 700 and even 900 yards, this rifle remained accurate. The hits came regularly on this calm day, even at the longer ranges. While the 7.62mm NATO is not going to get you in the winner's circle in most PRS competitions, it will in many law enforcement competitions or those limited to this chambering.

Although I couldn't test multiple cold-bore shots, there was little if any shift between the first round and the remaining follow-up shots.

The accuracy was what you would expect from a Seekins Precision rifle: excellent. The SP10 really liked the 155-grain Black Hills ammo, with a group that measured right at 0.45 inches. Hornady's 155-grain TAP ammunition was right behind this load with a group measuring 0.54 inches. Everything clustered into groups tighter than 0.7 inches. I fired each group after charging the first round by hand, too, so the rifle was very consistent.

### FINAL NOTES

The SP10's ejection was pretty consistent across the board—I did not experience any failures of any kind during testing at the range. As the day wore on, the ejection pattern changed a bit, but the rifle always worked. The buffer system worked well, with the recoil feeling typical for a 7.62mm AR. Looking at the system, the buffer spring should last forever, and it was very quiet. The rifle also features an adjustable gas block so you can tune your rifle for your load or conditions.

Overall, this rifle delivered as expected, with repeatable accuracy and solid reliable operation over a broad range of ammunition. It's well balanced, weighing just a tad more than a typical 5.56mm rifle. The SP10 is well designed, strong, stylish and versatile. If you want a solidly built rifle that is completely ambidextrous, accurate and reliable, give this one a very close look. For more information, visit [seekinsprecision.com](http://seekinsprecision.com) or call 208-743-3400.

**BG**

### Performance

#### SEEKINS PRECISION SP10

Load	Velocity	Accuracy
Black Hills 155 A-MAX	2,700	0.45
Desert Tech 175 OTM	2,450	0.67
Federal 168 Gold Medal Match OTM	2,452	0.60
Hornady 155 TAP	2,675	0.54

*Bullet weight measured in grains, velocity in fps by chronograph, and accuracy in inches for best five-shot groups at 100 yards.*





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### NEW! MI QD Optic Mount

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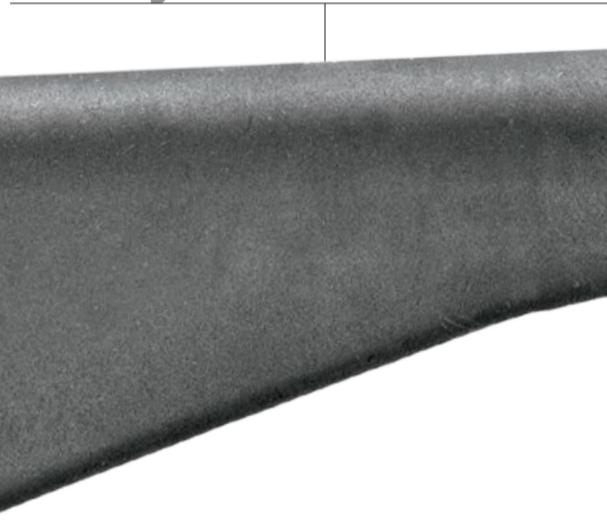
W292S4498 Hillside Rd, Waukesha, WI 53189 ◆ Tel: 262-896-6780, Fax: 262-896-6756

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## Military Collector FN 15 M4



## Military Collector FN 15 M16



**If you are looking for black rifles, there is little doubt that FNH USA should be your first stop.**

The AR may have been the first black rifle adopted by any military, but if you want a real U.S. mil-spec AR, they are all officially made by FN now. The company has grown to be the largest military arms manufacturer in the world, and it is responsible for such iconic designs as the Browning Hi-Power pistol and the FN FAL battle rifle.

While FN was a late entrant into the civilian AR market in the United States, it does have the distinct

advantage of its name and reputation. Originally, FN offered only a standard-issue, full-sized, 20-inch-barreled, fixed-stock AR and an M4-style carbine identical to those currently issued to our armed forces. In a short amount of time, however, the company has dramatically expanded its line of AR offerings.

### MIL-SPEC CLASSICS

The newest AR variants from FNH USA will appeal equally to the collector, the tactical operator and the 3-Gun shooter. The FN 15 Military Collector Series combines

the mil-spec elements of the classic AR rifle and carbines but adds tactical features, all while keeping the rifle as close as possible to a modern standard-issue gun.

The collector gets the benefit of owning as close to an original military rifle as legally possible, and one that's made by the military contractor to the same specifications. Both the M4 and M16 variants are direct gas impingement, semi-automatic rifles chambered in 5.56mm. They include ambidextrous safety selectors and chrome-lined, button-broached barrels that offer a 1-in-7-inch twist rate. Both also have standard A2 front



sights, flattop upper receivers and fully adjustable, rear flip-up iron sights.

Another common feature, and a welcome upgrade, is the Knight's Armament Rail Attachment System, which provides a quad-rail handguard and comes with standard removable rail covers. The FN 15 M4 has a standard, six-position, collapsible stock for length-of-pull adjustments and a side sling swivel on the barrel at the front sight base. The M4 version also features an A2-style flash suppressor permanently attached.



# SENTINELS

BY JORGE AMSELLE

**Battle-proven AR hardware  
ready to deliver elite performance anywhere, anytime!**

According to FN, "The barrel is shorter than the minimum 16 inches, which necessitated the permanently affixed flash hider. This was done to give the FN 15 M4 as much of an authentic look as possible." Of course, the actual M4 carbine has a 14.5-inch barrel and a removable flash suppressor. FN's other AR carbines do have true 16-inch barrels and removable muzzle devices.

The FN 15 M16, unlike its shorter companion, features a full-length, medium-contour, 20-inch barrel and a full-length A2 buttstock. The extra barrel length doesn't make the rifle any more accurate, but it does increase the velocity and effec-

tiveness of the 5.56mm round. Generally, you gain about 50 feet per second (fps) per additional inch of barrel length.

## TACTICAL CARBINE

Those more interested in ergonomics and tactical features than in collectible accuracy can look to the FN 15 Tactical Carbine. Here, FN has added all of the advanced features most beneficial to the tactical and competitive shooter. You still get all of the excellent quality of an FN rifle, plus a chrome-line, cold-hammer-forged, 16-inch, medium-contour, free-floating barrel. This is topped off with an elongated, removable, three-pronged flash suppressor. The rifle's mid-

length gas system and heavy buffer combine to help reduce perceived recoil and allow for faster follow-up shots.

The FN 15 Tactical Carbine's stocks are also selected for operator convenience and comfort. The Magpul MOE grip is matched up perfectly with the streamlined and lightweight Magpul MOE SL six-position, collapsible stock. The 12-inch, one-piece Midwest Industries LWM handguard is extremely lightweight and is M-LOK compatible for multiple accessory mounting options. One short length of rail is included. It also has five QD sling swivel attachment points. The single-stage trigger has also been enhanced for much smoother

operation and a clean break, enhancing using comfort and accuracy. Also included are adjustable Magpul MBUS backup sights and a Magpul PMAG.

## NEW DMR

The latest FN 15 variant to hit the direct-impingement lineup of carbines is the FN 15 DMR (Designated Marksman Rifle), which is designed for top-notch precision in a portable, fast-handling design.

The FN 15 DMR includes many of the same features as the FN 15 Sporting but was designed for more tactical applications. The FN 15 DMR features an 18-inch, match-grade, cold-hammer-forged barrel with a 1-in-7-inch twist

rate for enhanced stability and accuracy with heavier precision ammunition. Capping the barrel is a SureFire ProComp 556 muzzle brake for faster follow-up shots. The FN 15 DMR is also set up with a rifle-length gas system for a smoother recoil impulse while shooting.

Surrounding the barrel and gas system is Midwest Industries' 15-inch SSM M-LOK handguard. The FN 15 DMR also comes with a Timney Competition trigger, as well as Magpul's MBUS Pro backup sights, MOE pistol grip and STR buttstock. Currently, the MSRP for the new FN 15 DMR is \$1,899.

## COMBAT ELITE

The M249 Light Machine Gun, also known as the M249 SAW (Squad Automatic Weapon), was developed by FN as the FN Minimi and adopted by the U.S. military in 1988, two years after the ban on registering new civilian machine guns. As a result, fully transferable M249s are non-existent. FN, however, has introduced a semi-automatic, civilian-legal version as part of its Collector Series. Now Americans can own a real FN-made M249 SAW with no more paperwork than buying any rifle. Besides being semi-auto-

matic, this rifle also fires from the closed-bolt position, otherwise it is almost entirely identical to the military version, including the 17-pound weight.

The M249S is chambered in 5.56mm and will fire using linked ammunition or a standard 30-round AR magazine. This rifle also features a chrome-lined, cold-hammer-forged, 20.5-inch barrel with a conical flash suppressor. Other standard

**“The newest AR variants from FNH USA will appeal equally to the collector, the tactical operator and the 3-Gun shooter.”**

features include an integral folding/collapsing bipod that fits into the handguard, a carry handle and a fixed stock with a hinged shoulder plate.

## SPECIAL OPERATORS

U.S. Special Operations Command, or USSOCOM, often has a need for non-

standardized weapon systems. In an effort to meet the exacting demands of our country's elite warriors, FN developed the FN SCAR. The SCAR 16S is the civilian semi-automatic version of this rifle chambered in 5.56mm that uses standard AR magazines. It is an adjustable, gas-piston-operated rifle with a reciprocating and reversible charging handle. The adjustable gas system allows for continued use with a suppressor or when heavily fouled.

The 16-inch, cold-hammer-forged, chrome-lined barrel remains free-floating for improved accuracy and features a quick-change system to install barrels of different lengths or chamberings. The six-position-collapsible stock features a comb height adjustment and also folds to the right while keeping the rifle fully operational. The safety lever and magazine release are ambidextrous for added convenience to a variety of shooters.

The bigger brother to the SCAR 16 is the FN SCAR 17S, sometimes referred to as the "SCAR Heavy." Sharing all of the same features and quality as the SCAR 16, this rifle is chambered in 7.62mm and uses a metal, 20-round box magazine. For more information, visit [fnhusa.com](http://fnhusa.com) or call 703-288-3500.

**BG**

## Specifications

### FN 15 M4

<b>Caliber:</b>	5.56mm
<b>Barrel:</b>	16 inches
<b>OA Length:</b>	30.5-34.2 inches
<b>Weight:</b>	7 pounds (empty)
<b>Stock:</b>	Polymer, collapsible
<b>Sights:</b>	A2 front, folding rear
<b>Action:</b>	Direct impingement, semi-auto
<b>Finish:</b>	Matte black
<b>Capacity:</b>	30+1
<b>MSRP:</b>	N/A



### FN 15 TACTICAL CARBINE

<b>Caliber:</b>	5.56mm
<b>Barrel:</b>	16 inches
<b>OA Length:</b>	33.7-37 inches
<b>Weight:</b>	6.6 pounds (empty)
<b>Stock:</b>	Magpul MOE SL
<b>Sights:</b>	Magpul MBUS
<b>Action:</b>	Direct impingement, semi-auto
<b>Finish:</b>	Matte black
<b>Capacity:</b>	30+1
<b>MSRP:</b>	\$1,479



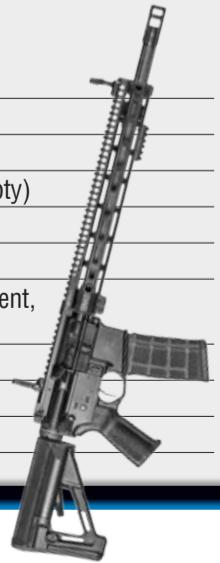
### FN M249S SAW

<b>Caliber:</b>	5.56mm
<b>Barrel:</b>	20.5 inches
<b>OA Length:</b>	40.75 inches
<b>Weight:</b>	17 pounds (empty)
<b>Stock:</b>	Polymer
<b>Sights:</b>	Adjustable front and rear
<b>Action:</b>	Direct impingement, semi-auto
<b>Finish:</b>	Matte black
<b>Capacity:</b>	30+1
<b>MSRP:</b>	N/A



### FN 15 DMR

<b>Caliber:</b>	5.56mm
<b>Barrel:</b>	18 inches
<b>OA Length:</b>	35-38 inches
<b>Weight:</b>	7.2 pounds (empty)
<b>Stock:</b>	Magpul STR
<b>Sights:</b>	Magpul MBUS
<b>Action:</b>	Direct impingement, semi-auto
<b>Finish:</b>	Matte black
<b>Capacity:</b>	30+1
<b>MSRP:</b>	\$1,899



### FN SCAR 16S

<b>Caliber:</b>	5.56mm
<b>Barrel:</b>	16.25 inches
<b>OA Length:</b>	27.5-37.5 inches
<b>Weight:</b>	7.25 pounds (empty)
<b>Stock:</b>	Polymer, side-folding
<b>Sights:</b>	Rail and folding MBUS
<b>Action:</b>	Piston-operated, semi-auto
<b>Finish:</b>	Matte black or FDE
<b>Capacity:</b>	30+1
<b>MSRP:</b>	\$2,995



### FN SCAR 17S

<b>Caliber:</b>	7.62mm
<b>Barrel:</b>	16.25 inches
<b>OA Length:</b>	28.5-38.5 inches
<b>Weight:</b>	8 pounds (empty)
<b>Stock:</b>	Polymer, side-folding
<b>Sights:</b>	Rail and folding MBUS
<b>Action:</b>	Piston-operated, semi-auto
<b>Finish:</b>	Matte black or FDE
<b>Capacity:</b>	20+1
<b>MSRP:</b>	\$3,349



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**Lewis Machine & Tool**  
offers the LM8MWS with several  
optional barrel assemblies in various  
lengths that include low-profile gas  
blocks and gas tubes. Shown with a  
Bushnell Elite Tactical 4.5-30x50mm  
XRS riflescope and an Atlas bipod.

## **Lewis Machine & Tool has been building rifles geared toward use in the harshest environments for years.**

Built to withstand hard use, many of the company's designs have professional operators or competitors in mind. Its 5.56mm LM8MRP popularized interchangeable barrel systems by allowing simple, quick conversions to various barrel lengths and calibers. Its patented monolithic upper was an industry first and set the standard for years to come. Machining the entire part from one billet eliminates stress points and more easily facilitates barrel changes. Proven in the 5.56mm platform, the company has transitioned into making 7.62mm rifles as well, and the results are pretty impressive.

### **MULTI-CAL FIREPOWER**

The LM8MWS in 7.62mm NATO includes an ambidextrous safety and mag release, and both the upper and lower receivers are forged. The two-stage trigger group is robust, crisp and clean. An Ergo rubber grip provides a firm and comfortable hold, while adjustable LMT SOPMOD stocks are standard on the design, although the company's new DMR stock is also available. All of the remaining internals are mil-spec.

The monolithic upper receiver is solid, strong, well built and features a continuous top rail. Smooth, slender lines allow for comfortable holds and a very nice look. Mounting holes at 3, 6 and 9 o'clock provide ample space for rails, and covers for unused space provide a solid hold. Sitting atop the rail are LMT's newest folding sights. Folding flat and locking firmly in place with one hand, these units are rock solid. Two bolts hold the barrel in place and provide a nice flat spot for unsupported shooting. Several quick-detach (QD) slots are provided for sling use.

Barrels chambered in 7.62mm are available in 16-, 18- and 20-inch lengths. Most are stainless steel, match-grade units with 1-in-11.25-inch twist rates. There is also a 16-inch, chrome-lined, 1-in-10-inch-twist barrel available for those needing a short carbine. Other



# LMT COMBAT ELITE

Lewis Machine & Tool's hard-charging ARs  
give operators and competitors  
an **ON-TARGET EDGE**  
with every shot!

BY DAVID BAHDE  
STEVE WOODS PHOTOS





**LMT COMBAT ELITE**



LMT's "slick" monolithic upper features a free-floating forend that can be customized with rails.

calibers/barrel assemblies include 6.5 Creedmoor, .260 Remington, 7mm-08 and .243 Winchester, all with 20-inch, stainless steel barrels. LMT cryogenically treats each barrel to increase accuracy, barrel life and facilitate easier cleaning. Each has a robust, low-profile gas block and gas tube. All barrels are capped with an A2-birdcage-style flash suppressor and feature 5/8x24 threading, allowing for the addition of aftermarket muzzle brakes, flash hiders or suppressors. An LMT 308D hard-chromed, semi-auto bolt carrier group is also utilized in the rifle's design, ensuring reliable operation in most any condition.

### LOCKED ON TARGET

Accuracy with the 6.5 Creedmoor barrel assembly was impressive. My best group measured 0.5 inches. Recoil was minimal, causing little to no movement, prompting me to also conduct group testing with just the iron sights. These new

sights lend themselves to consistency, and with a 0.95-inch group at 100 yards, they were clearly excellent.

Since 7.62mm is the most common caliber in this platform, several of these loads were also tested. All were accurate. The M118 LR grouped at a tad over half an inch. Everything else was under 1.5 inches, with most hovering around the 1-inch mark. Moving back to the iron sights, the LM8MWS was tested from various shooting positions, around obstacles and with various types of ammunition.

This rifle's sight design facilitates really fast shots up close—line up the circles and press. A standard AR post allows switching to tritium. The rear sight features a post that can be turned to adjust for different ranges with both a small and large opening. Windage can be adjusted using a knob on either side. Designed for a 300-yard zero, it has a built in bullet-drop compensation (BDC) with large white markings. Just for kicks it was

taken out to smack some steel using the BDC. Once the wind was worked out, hits at 500 yards were pretty regular with it dialed up to "500" on the sight. As backup sights go, these are excellent.

Swapping out barrels is simple, fast and requires one tool—the proper Torx wrench, which LMT provides. During testing I loosened the screws holding the barrel in place as much as a turn with no change in the point of impact. Removing and replacing a barrel generally yields little to no change, especially if you torque the bolts properly.

Reliability was excellent with every barrel, and ejection patterns were impressive. In the prone position, with consistent pressure in the pocket, it created a tidy pile in the same place with all the ammunition. The ejection pattern was a bit less regular in rapid fire, but the rifle was completely reliable.

LMT offers the LM8MWS in several configurations. Offered in barrel lengths as short as 16 inches, they are built to meet restrictive state requirements, including California. The company's SLK receiver offers a smooth handguard with various places to attach rails of varying lengths, providing for the most versatility. Standard receivers have built-in quad rails with covers for unused space and a comfortable grip.

For those looking to have it all, the Sharp Shooter Rifle package (LM308SS) provides the rifle with a 16-inch, match-grade barrel, flip-up sights, eight 20-round magazines, a sling, a cleaning kit, a sight adjustment tool and the torque wrench for barrel changes, all packed in a custom-built Pelican hard case.

LMT's proven line of 5.56mm rifles covers just about every need in both piston-driven and direct impingement platforms. The company's Defender line anchors its direct impingement models. The Defender Patrol model uses a chrome-lined, 16-inch barrel with a flattop, a rear sight and standard A2 features typical of mil-spec rifles. Adding a SOPMOD stock and Ergo grip fills out the standard model.

Moving up to the CQB line includes the LM8MRP design, providing interchangeable barrels and a monolithic upper receiver. Available in 5.56mm, 6.8 SPC and 300 BLK, there are also California-compliant models available in this lineup. Each has quad rails with covers.

Looking for a competition rifle or just more versatility? The SLK series has you

### LEWIS MACHINE & TOOL LM8MWS

#### Specifications

#### Performance

<b>Caliber:</b>	7.62mm NATO
<b>Barrel:</b>	16 inches
<b>OA Length:</b>	38 inches
<b>Weight:</b>	10 pounds (empty)
<b>Stock:</b>	LMT DMR
<b>Sights:</b>	Flip-up front and rear
<b>Action:</b>	Direct impingement semi-auto
<b>Finish:</b>	Matte black
<b>Capacity:</b>	20+1
<b>MSRP:</b>	\$3,149

Load	Velocity	Accuracy
<b>7.62mm NATO</b>		
Black Hills 180 AccuBond	2,425	0.95
Federal Gold Medal Match 168 BTHP	2,525	0.70
Federal M118 LR	2,470	0.52
Silver State Armory 175 OTM	2,440	0.65
<b>6.5 Creedmoor</b>		
Hornady 140 A-MAX	2,800	0.50
Handload 139 Scenar	2,750	0.57

*Bullet weight measured in grains, velocity in fps by chronograph, and accuracy in inches for best five-shot groups at 100 yards.*



## Specifications

### LEWIS MACHINE & TOOL LM8MRP

**Caliber:** 5.56mm NATO  
**Barrel:** 16 inches  
**OA Length:** 38 inches  
**Weight:** 7 pounds (empty)  
**Sights:** Flip-up front and rear  
**Stock:** LMT SOPMOD  
**Action:** Direct impingement semi-auto  
**Finish:** Matte black  
**Capacity:** 30+1  
**MSRP:** \$2,254



### LEWIS MACHINE & TOOL CQB MRP DEFENDER

**Caliber:** 5.56mm NATO  
**Barrel:** 16 inches  
**OA Length:** 35.3 inches  
**Weight:** 6.2 pounds (empty)  
**Sights:** A2 front, flip-up rear  
**Stocks:** LMT SOPMOD  
**Action:** Piston-driven semi-auto  
**Finish:** Matte black  
**Capacity:** 30+1  
**MSRP:** \$2,351



covered. The featured SLK handguard allows for complete control with a slick side and various rail attachments. This lets the operator keep it simple or add aiming aids, lights or night-vision optics. Barrels range from 16-inch, chrome-lined units to Ultra Match Stainless barrels as long as 20 inches.

If you prefer a piston-driven system, then the CQB MRP, part of the Defender series, is the ticket. Barrels range from 12 to 16 inches in 5.56mm, and 16 inches in 6.8 SPC. Using the MRP system, one rifle offers interchangeable barrels and calibers. Just swap out the barrel and bolt and you're ready for action!

## BUILT FOR THE BEST

If you are looking for some of the highest-quality AR rifles built with the strongest and most versatile receivers available, LMT is the place to start. The company remains the standard in monolithic design and is an industry leader when it comes to interchangeable barrels and calibers. Whether you're looking for a simple duty rifle, long-range precision or a competition machine, LMT has what you need. For more information, call 309-732-9527 or visit [lmtdefense.com](http://lmtdefense.com). **BG**

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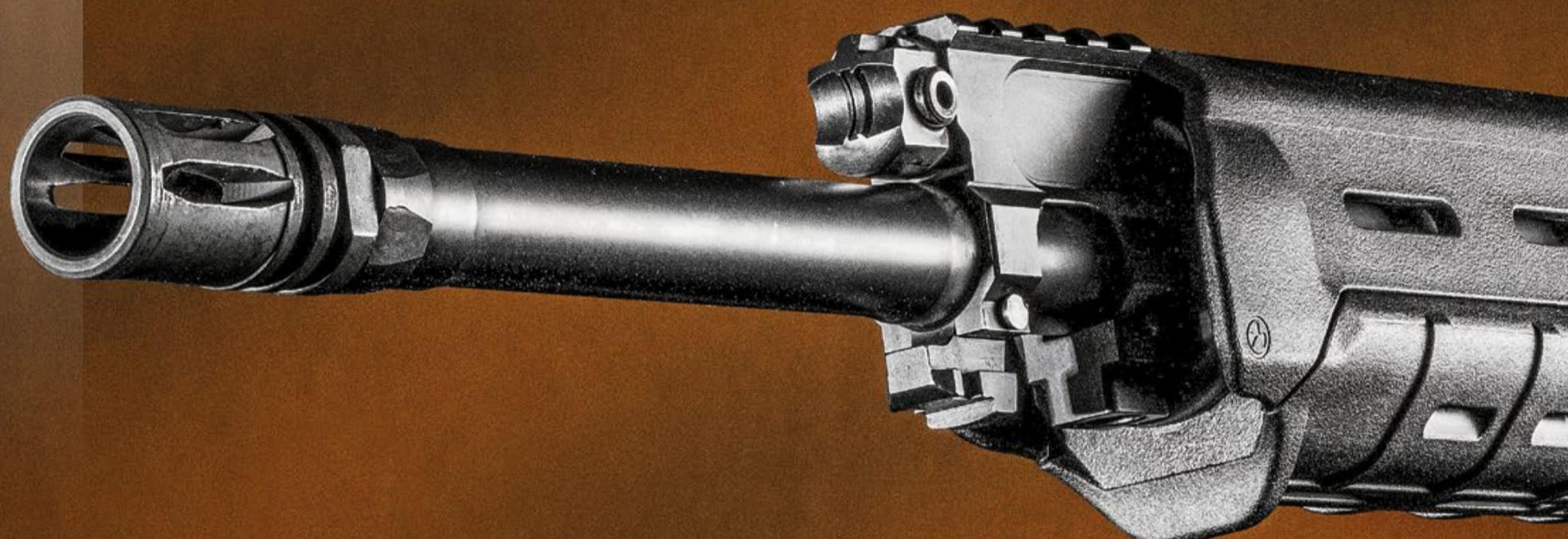
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PERFORMANCE TUNED.

# PURITAN

**Patriot Ordnance Factory's piston-driven powerhouse packs in pure 5.56mm power!**



**BY ANDY MASSIMILIAN**

**Patriot Ordnance Factory, or POF-USA, of Phoenix, Arizona, started making AR-platform rifles in 2002. These rifles, with receivers milled from billets, low-drag bolt carriers, gas piston operating systems and custom finishes, were largely ahead of the market.**

These features made for high-quality rifles, but they were generally priced in the upper range of the AR-15. The Puritan, which recently made its debut, is designed to offer the performance of a POF-USA rifle with an attractive MSRP of \$1,470. It is still a high-quality build with American-

made parts and a lifetime warranty, but dispenses with some features while retaining the gas piston operating system that is a hallmark of the company's rifles.

#### **GUN DETAILS**

Chambered in 5.56mm NATO, the Puritan incorporates the E<sup>2</sup> extraction system found on the company's new Gen 4 rifles. The E<sup>2</sup> system enhances the rifle's reliability while lengthening the extractor's life. The E<sup>2</sup> extraction system amounts to four small, shallow, equally spaced grooves cut into the chamber at the neck. These cuts allow gas to break the neck of the case free from the walls and push the shoulder of the case away from the chamber walls. Firearms designers call this

system "primary" extraction, with "secondary" being the mechanical action of the extractor. With the E<sup>2</sup> grooves, the extractor has less work to do because the case is loosened from its hold. This reduced stress lengthens the life of the extractor spring and makes extractor breakage less likely.

The Puritan uses the company's own short-stroke gas piston design and a one-piece machined gas block that is nitride treated for corrosion and wear resistance and surface heat treated to Rockwell 70 for strength. The piston and operating rod are stainless steel. The mid-length gas block has three settings: normal, reduced gas when using a suppressor and off for operating the rifle

manually. The gas block has a Picatinny-style integral rail mount on top and a quick-detach (QD) sling swivel mount on the bottom.

Gas piston rifles sometimes suffer from "carrier tilt," where the underside of the bolt carrier abrades the inside of the buffer tube during recoil. Carrier tilt occurs when the bolt carrier is propelled rearward but also at a downward tilt. This tilt results from the carrier key (mounted atop the front of the carrier) being driven rearward by the gas piston rod. Carrier tilt does not occur in direct-impingement ARs because the carrier is pushed directly rearward by operation of the gas against the bolt located inside the front of the bolt carrier. POF-USA explains that the Puritan

# 9.56MM



solves this problem by using an anti-tilt buffer tube of its own design.

The POF-USA buffer tube differs from other designs because it has a lip that extends into the threaded portion of the lower receiver, thus capturing the entire bottom portion of the bolt carrier even when the bolt is in battery.

The Puritan is made with forged aluminum upper and lower receivers that follow the M16A3 design, which incorporates a flattop Picatinny rail, a forward assist and a shell deflector. The receivers are not mated during production but fit tightly, and two Teflon Allen-head screws on both sides of the lower receiver, near the rear takedown pin, can be adjusted to tighten the fit and eliminate any looseness.

The new Puritan offers plenty of POF-USA's enhancements, including its E<sup>2</sup> extraction system for reliability, in an affordable package. Shown with an Aimpoint CompM4 sight.



The Puritan employs a short-stroke piston system of operation, and the regulator has three settings: normal, reduced gas and off.

The enlarged Magpul triggerguard is made from plastic and contoured to accommodate a gloved trigger finger. Leaving adequate room for a gloved finger is important for safety, as the shooter can access the inside of the guard with thick insulated gloves yet not contact the trigger. The receivers are finished with black hardcoat anodizing. This strong but conventional design is a big cost savings over POF-USA's premium models, which use receivers made from a billet rather than a forging and are finished with Robar's NP3 coating, which is electroless nickel and Teflon.

The trigger assembly, POF-USA's own drop-in design, is secured with KNS anti-walk pins. It is a single-stage unit made from tool steel that has been casehardened to Rockwell 70 and has a specified



The Magpul MOE grip on the Puritan's lower receiver helps position the shooter's finger optimally for proper trigger engagement.



Surrounding the barrel and gas piston system is Magpul's polymer MOE handguard, which can be customized with accessory rails as needed.

## Specifications

### PATRIOT ORDNANCE FACTORY PURITAN

<b>Caliber:</b>	5.56mm NATO
<b>Barrel:</b>	16.5 inches
<b>OA Length:</b>	32 inches
<b>Weight:</b>	6.7 pounds (empty)
<b>Stock:</b>	Magpul MOE
<b>Sights:</b>	None
<b>Action:</b>	Piston-operated semi-auto
<b>Finish:</b>	Matte black
<b>Capacity:</b>	30+1
<b>MSRP:</b>	\$1,470

dard design because it is larger, thicker and has grooves for an easy grasp.

The Puritan uses the same bolt and bolt carrier used on POF-USA's premium P415 model. The bolt carrier is long enough to trip the auto sear on select-fire weapons and is coated with nickel-boron, which is slicker and more durable than a Parkerized finish. Carbon deposits come off easier on nickel-boron-coated carriers, and you can easily see what spots are still fouled after cleaning. The roller cam pin is a major improvement over conventional designs and reduces drag by using a roller on its top that is coated with NP3.

The Puritan is equipped with a 16.5-inch, button-rifled barrel with a 1-in-8-inch twist rate, which is relatively fast and is typically used on heavier and thus longer bullets weighing 69 grains. The barrel has a medium profile forward of the chamber taper. No barrel break-in is required. The

barrel is not free-floating and is mounted using a conventional locking nut, compared to the premium models, which use an extended locking nut of POF-USA's own design and are free-floated. The muzzle has 1/2x28 threading and comes with an A2-style birdcage flash suppressor.

The Puritan comes with one Magpul 30-round PMAG, a Magpul MOE collapsible stock and an MOE grip that has a compartment for stowing a spare firing pin or batteries. This grip is a major improvement over the standard A2-style grip because it wraps around the rear of the lower receiver and positions the shooter's finger in a much better position on the trigger. The rifle also sports Magpul handguards that fit tightly with minimal twist and have slots that accommodate Picatinny rail inserts sold separately.

## FINAL NOTES

The Puritan is an entry-level build compared to other rifles made by POF-USA, but it is more advanced than many of its competitors. Its added design and engineering features underscore how POF-USA is managed by shooters who really know the AR-15 and areas where it can be improved. The result is a significantly better rifle than many others with respect to durability, ergonomics, reliability and barrel longevity. And for those who shoot steel-cased ammo, this rifle's E<sup>2</sup> extraction system is critical for reliable operation. For more information, visit [pof-usa.com](http://pof-usa.com) or call 623-561-9572. **BG**

**“ The E<sup>2</sup> system  
enhances the rifle's  
reliability while  
lengthening the  
extractor's life. ”**

pull weight of 4.5 pounds. The trigger is one of the Puritan's best features because it breaks crisply with very minimal movement. The trigger shoe is elongated with minimal curvature, which many precision shooters prefer. The safety is ambidextrous and activates easily, and the charging handle is better than the stan-

# BCM GUNFIGHTER™



## BCMGUNFIGHTER™ Pistol Grip

- Reduced grip angle keeps wrist in line for improved trigger control
- Hinged Trap Door interior storage with water resistant rubber gasket
- Mod 0 similar to A1/A2 backstrap, Mod 1 with high rise backstrap
- Mod 2 up to 1/4 inch wider with interchangeable backstraps/inserts
- Mod 3 up to 1/4 inch wider with high rise backstrap/extended insert
- All Mods available in Black, Flat Dark Earth, Foliage Green, Wolf Gray

**BCMGUNFIGHTER™ Pistol Grips** . . . Prices start at **\$17.95**



## BCMGUNFIGHTER™ Vertical Grip

- Forward angle increases rigidity of the forearm, provides more natural wrist angle
- Featuring an aggressive texture, and generous storage volume
- Cross bolt designed to work with improvised tools
- Reversible clamp for fastener setup on either side
- Made in the U.S.A. from high quality, impact resistant polymers
- Available in Black, Flat Dark Earth, Foliage Green and Wolf Gray

**BCMGUNFIGHTER™ VG - Screw Mount** . . . **\$39.95**



## BCMGUNFIGHTER™ VG

- Low-profile length for increased mobility and decreased "snag" factor
- The forward angle increases the rigidity of the forearm, while providing a more natural wrist angle
- Can be mounted in reverse angle to increase control when grabbing handguard and grip
- Flat sides with aggressive texture give better control to the shooter
- Anchor and bolt system offers a simple robust design, while maintaining a light-weight 1.9 ounces
- Made in the U.S.A. from high quality, impact resistant polymers
- Available in Black, Flat Dark Earth, Foliage Green and Wolf Gray

**BCMGUNFIGHTER™ VG-KM-MOD-3 - KeyMod Version** . . . . . **\$18.95**

**BCMGUNFIGHTER™ VG-1913-MOD-3 - Picatinny Rail Version** . . . . . **\$19.95**



## BCMGUNFIGHTER™ Stock

Over a year in design, specifically engineered geometry, with no weak links. New patent pending latch reinvents the interface with the receiver extension, providing superior strength.

- Simple modular, snag free design utilizes only 5 parts and 1 screw
- 2 ambidextrous sling mounting options including QD swivel socket
- Color matched rubber buttpad for secure shoulder placement
- Available in Black, Flat Dark Earth, Foliage Green and Wolf Gray

**BCMGUNFIGHTER™ Stock** . . . . . **\$55.95**



## BCMGUNFIGHTER™ Vertical Grip - Short

- Low-profile length for increased mobility and decreased "snag" factor
- Forward angle increases rigidity of the forearm, provides more natural wrist angle
- Aggressive texture, generous storage volume
- Made in the U.S.A. from high quality, impact resistant polymers
- Available in Black, Flat Dark Earth, Foliage Green and Wolf Gray

**BCMGUNFIGHTER™ VG-S - Short, Screw Mount Version** . . . . . **\$35.95**

**BCMGUNFIGHTER™ VG-S-KM - Short, KeyMod Version** . . . . . **\$39.95**



## BCMGUNFIGHTER™ KAG Kinesthetic Angled Grip

- Forward rake gives positive retention when using "C-clamp" method of handguard support, works as a rest for supported firing positions
- Slight angle without bulk adds just the right amount of strain relief to the wrist without substantially increasing the girth of the handguard
- Small profile, textured front and back for positive engagement
- Innovative patent pending attachment method allows for robust clamping and alignment with minimal hardware and accessory size
- Made in the U.S.A. from high quality, impact resistant polymers
- Available in Black, Flat Dark Earth, Foliage Green and Wolf Gray

**BCMGUNFIGHTER™ KAG-KM - KeyMod Version** . . . . . **\$18.95**

**BCMGUNFIGHTER™ KAG-1913 - Picatinny Rail Version** . . . . . **\$19.95**

# RAILS & GRIPS



BY ROBERT A. SADOWSKI

**No two operators are the same** and the ability to customize the AR platform's grips and rails mean the weapon can be personalized for each user. A good-fitting pistol grip means more shooting comfort and better weapon manipulation when you bring the gun into your work space. Rails are the foundation you need to attach accessories like aiming lasers, white lights and vertical grips. Build your AR to your specs to suit your needs.



**AMERICAN BUILT  
ARMS COMPANY  
MOD1 HAND GUARD**

**BRAVO COMPANY  
BCM GUNFIGHTER  
GRIP MOD 3**

**AMERICAN  
BUILT ARMS  
COMPANY  
SBR P\*GRIP**



**BRAVO  
COMPANY  
KMR**

**BCM  
GUNFIGHTER  
VERTICAL  
GRIP MOD 3**



**AMERICAN BUILT  
ARMS COMPANY  
SBR P\*GRIP**

The SBR P\*Grip (Pistol Grip) is lightweight and has a small, ergonomic profile that works well with shooters with small hands. Made from high-heat-rated nylon with high-strength fibers, the SBR P\*Grip is strong and features a weather-resistant, internal storage compartment that will fit two AA batteries or one CR123 battery. (abarms.com)

**AMERICAN BUILT  
ARMS COMPANY  
MOD1 HAND GUARD**

The MOD1 Hand Guard from A\*B Arms is designed to accommodate gas piston or direct gas impingement systems. The two-piece design with upper and lower heat shields offers maximum cooling on carbine-length AR platforms. The ergonomic grip area, which includes a hand stop, has a well-textured surface to provide shooters with a sure, comfortable grip. (abarms.com)

**BRAVO COMPANY  
BCM GUNFIGHTER  
GRIP MOD 3**

Offering a reduced angle for improved ergonomics and trigger control, the BCM GUNFIGHTER Grip Mod 3 is wider than the Mod 1 and Mod 2 grips. It features an extended forward tang that is designed to close the gap between the triggerguard and pistol grip. A small, water-resistant storage compartment is accessible by a hinged trap door on the base of the grip, and the backstrap is similar to a high-rise beavertail. (bravocompanyusa.com; 877-272-8626)

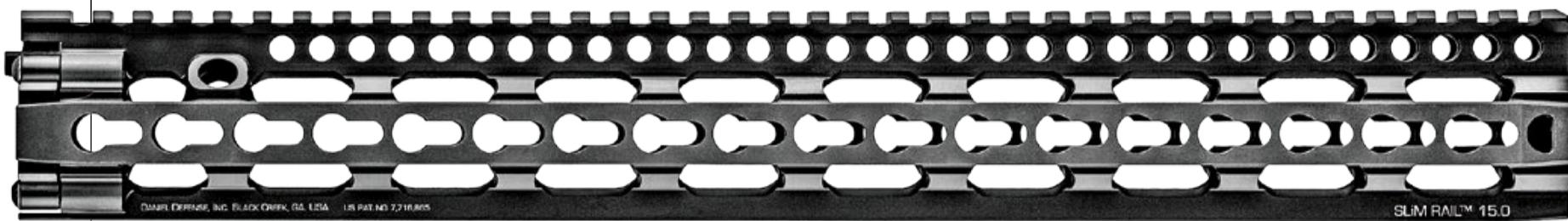
**BRAVO COMPANY  
KMR HANDGUARD**

The KMR (KeyMod Rail) system provides a great deal of tactical flexibility in what accessories are added to your rifle. Smaller than a conventional Picatinny rail, the handguard system has less bulk in hand. Available in a variety of lengths, the rails are made from a blended aluminum and magnesium alloy that is 30 to 40 percent lighter than aluminum. (bravocompanyusa.com; 877-272-8626)

**BCM GUNFIGHTER  
VERTICAL GRIP MOD 3**

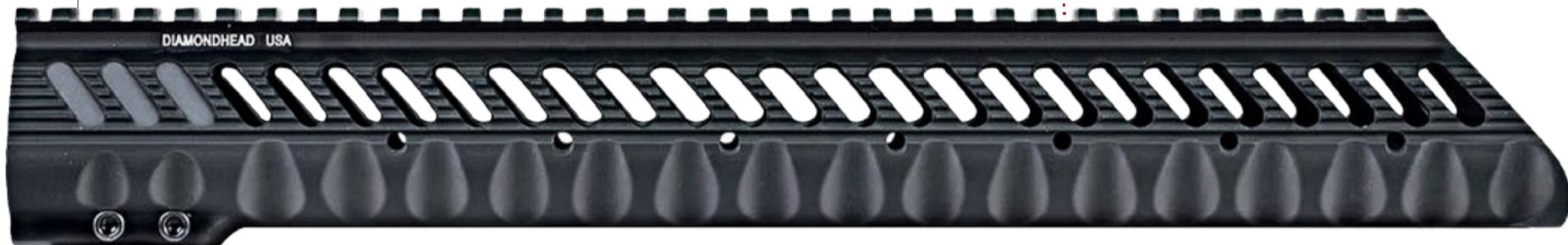
The VG-1913 Mod 3 vertical grip directly mounts to a Picatinny rail via a patent-pending anchor system that not only secures grips, but spreads the energy and force throughout the accessory. The flat sides of the grip, along with an aggressive texture, give an operator better yaw control during firing. (bravocompanyusa.com; 877-272-8626)

# RAILS & GRIPS



**DANIEL DEFENSE  
SLIM RAIL**

**DIAMONDHEAD VRS T-308L  
FREE-FLOATING HANDGUARD**



**“ A good-fitting  
pistol grip means  
more shooting  
comfort and better  
weapon manipulation  
when you bring the gun  
into your work space. ”**

**GUNTEC THIN  
PROFILE  
HANDGUARD**



**LANCER LCH716-CX-L  
CARBON-FIBER  
HANDGUARD**



**BLACKHEART  
AR SLING  
HOOK MOUNT  
PISTOL GRIP**

## BLACKHEART AR SLING HOOK MOUNT PISTOL GRIP

Based on the ANG variation of the original SE1 grip, the Blackheart AR Sling Hook Mount Pistol Grip works with the AR's existing triggerguard. Strategic contours on the upper backstrap, finger shelf and lower portion of the grip ensure solid, positive hand placement, improved weapon retention and reduced fatigue during long range sessions. An internal storage compartment can hold spare CR123 batteries.

(bhigear.com; 304-622-7000)

## DANIEL DEFENSE SLIM RAIL

The free-floated SliM Rail (Slim, Lightweight, Modular) uses a KeyMod system for attaching accessories at the 3, 6 and 9 o'clock positions. Constructed of aircraft-grade 6061-T6 aluminum, the SliM offers an uninterrupted Picatinny top rail in three lengths: 9-, 12- and 15-inch options to fit your carbines and rifles with ease. The rails offer superior cooling and ergonomics while maintaining strength and durability. (danieldefense.com; 866-554-4867)

## DIAMONDHEAD VRS T-308L FREE-FLOATING HANDGUARD

The VRS T-308L Free-Floating Handguard will mount on a 7.62mm AR with a low-profile gas block. Constructed of 6061 aluminum, the VRS T-308L is sturdy and lightweight. The rounded triangular shape is comfortable to hold for extended shooting sessions. The Picatinny rail offers numerous mounting options for optics. (diamondhead-usa.com; 413-739-6970)

## GUNTEC THIN PROFILE HANDGUARD

The free-floating, lightweight Thin Profile Handguard from Guntec USA has removable side and bottom rails and is made from light T6 aluminum. The top features a long monolithic rail, and the modular sectional rails are designed to be moved and attached to different positions on the handguard. Available in black and dark earth Cerakote finishes. (guntecusa.com; 480-478-4517)

## HOGUE BEAVERTAIL GRIPS

Incorporating ergonomics-enhancing finger grooves in the frontstrap and a comfortable texture for a secure grip, the Hogue overmolded beavertail grips provide extended length of pull and added support for the web of an operator's hand. It includes a triggerguard filler and is available in black, OD green, Flat Dark Earth, Ghillie Green, Ghillie Earth, pink, purple and Red Lava. (hogueinc.com; 800-438-4747)

## LANCER LCH716-CX-L CARBON-FIBER HANDGUARD

The LCH716-CX-L is designed specifically for Sig Sauer's piston-driven SIG 716 carbine in 7.62mm NATO. The handguard is constructed of lightweight yet extremely rugged carbon fiber and free-floats the barrel to better aid accuracy. Aluminum receiver extensions ensure a rock-solid attachment to the receiver. The unit is available in two lengths: 13.3 or 7.4 inches. (lancer-systems.com; 610-973-2600)

## MAGPUL MOE-K2+ GRIP

The reinforced polymer body construction and comfortable, wrap-around rubber overmolding of the MOE-K2+ Grip gives a user maximum weapon control in adverse environments. This drop-in grip is easy to install and similar to Magpul's MOE-K, except that the MOE-K2+ is slightly larger for more of a full grip. Available in black, Flat Dark Earth, Stealth Gray or olive drab. (magpul.com; 877-462-4785)



**HOGUE  
AR-15  
BEAVERTAIL  
RUBBER  
GRIP**



**MAGPUL  
MOE-K2+  
GRIP**

# RAILS & GRIPS



**ZEROBRAVO RHS**

**MOUNTAIN VIEW  
DESIGNS PRV15  
TACTICAL FOREGRIP**



**SUN OPTICS  
TACTICAL  
GRIP WITH  
RED LASER  
AND WHITE  
LIGHT**





**STARK BRU  
PISTOL GRIP**

**MIDWEST  
INDUSTRIES  
MI-SSK 12-INCH  
KEYMOD RAIL**



**TACSTAR AR-15 TACTICAL  
FRONT & REAR GRIP SET**

## MIDWEST INDUSTRIES MI-SSK 12-INCH KEYMOD RAIL

Slim and light while packing in a lot of performance, the MI-SSK KeyMod Rail in its 12-inch version weighs only 8.5 ounces. Made from 6061 aluminum and featuring a hardcoat anodized black finish, the top features a long Picatinny-style rail while the sides are KeyMod. Both rail types offer numerous attachment points for accessories. (midwestindustriesinc.com; 262-896-6780)

## MOUNTAIN VIEW DESIGNS PRV15 TACTICAL FOREGRIP

The PRV15 grip is a Picatinny rail-mounted foregrip with a V-shaped design that offers operators a 15-degree rotation of the handle. The grip is designed with operator comfort and stability in mind. A small Picatinny rail is attached to the grip so accessories are in easy reach without changing hand placement. (tacticallypractical.com)

## STARK BRU PISTOL GRIP

The BRU (Basic Rifle Upgrade) Pistol Grip is similar to Stark's SE-1 grip, but it has no integral triggerguard so the BRU can be installed on nearly any AR platform, even those with billet lower receivers. The grip geometry offers a natural shooting hand position. The hand stop on the upper backstrap locks your hand in at the same position so your index finger is at the same angle to the trigger every time for consistency. (starkequipment.com; 603-556-7772)

## SUN OPTICS USA TACTICAL GRIP WITH RED LASER AND WHITE LIGHT

This vertical grip from Sun Optics offers users a 250-lumen LED white light and a red laser. With the touch of a button, the two-stage laser can go from constant to strobe mode. The laser is also adjustable for windage and elevation. The unit mounts to any Picatinny-style rail and runs on two CR123A batteries. (sunopticsusa.com; 817-783-6001)

## TACSTAR AR-15 TACTICAL FRONT & REAR GRIP SET

The ergonomic design and aggressive styling of the AR-15 Tactical Front and Rear Grip Set offer operators secure weapon handling in any environment. The finger-groove design of both the rear and front grip offer excellent control. The front grip can be pushed forward or aft to suit the situation. The grips are made from Pachmayr's recoil-absorbing Decelerator material. (tacstar.com; 800-225-9626)

## ZEROBRAVO RHS

The ZeroBravo Reversible Hand Stop (RHS) for KeyMod rails allows an operator to mount the unit in multiple locations depending on the situation. In the forward position on the bottom of the rail, the RHS can be used as an indexing point for added weapon control. Position it rearward on the side of the rail as an indexing point or near the front as a hand stop so your hand does not touch the muzzle or suppressor. (zerobravo.com)

# LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS

**Reduce a bolt rifle to its basic parts and most of the rifle's weight is in the barrel, followed by its action.**

Actions can be made of titanium, but most are steel and limit your ability to shave off weight. Move to an AR, however, and that is not the case. AR receivers are already made of aluminum and are very light—and they're getting lighter and stronger every year. This means the best place to save weight is in the barrel.

AR barrels can be swapped with a few simple tools, making them a great option for all builders, custom or otherwise. Fluting, different tapers and other modifications can be made to steel barrels to reduce weight, but they all come with their own set of compromises. Carbon-fiber-wrapped barrels offer an alternative, and depending on caliber, length and taper, it can shave pounds off an AR, not just ounces.

It's critical to understand "carbon" barrels are carbon wrapped, not all carbon, and that they start with a steel barrel. The quality of the steel barrel determines its accuracy. Wrap carbon around a standard barrel and you will be disappointed. Early carbon-fiber-wrapped versions did just that, resulting

in less-than-promising accuracy and, in some cases, reliability issues.

You have to start with a quality steel barrel blank to get the best accuracy. This is why the many manufacturers, such as ones like Proof Research and Christensen Arms, build their own steel barrels now. Each tapers and builds their barrels to ensure the best "mating" of the carbon fiber. It's a process, not a covering, and the steel barrel remains the heart of the process.



Carbon-fiber-wrapped barrels, as shown on this Christensen Arms CA-15, provide a well-balanced and lightweight rifle for easy shooting from off-hand or unsupported positions.

## Save weight while maximizing performance with a carbon-fiber-wrapped barrel! BY DAVID BAHDE

Each company's manufacturing process is incredibly proprietary and highly guarded. In touring their manufacturing plants, you are not likely to see the carbon-wrapping process. In my experience, the process is accomplished somewhat differently with each company. Part of that process is the contour and how they terminate at each end. How the wrapping process occurs, as well as the makeup of the carbon, determines how heat from the steel is dissipated, the expansion controlled and the adhesion of the carbon ensured. If any of this breaks down, you get problems. Accuracy may suffer, groups may open up or spread under rapid fire and cold-bore shots can wander. When done correctly, however, none of this occurs, but that is the magic and what adds to the cost.

### GOING THE DISTANCE

My latest precision rifle build has been incredible. Mating a 20-inch, 6.5mm Creedmoor Proof Research barrel to my Seekins Precision receivers resulted in one of the lightest and best-balanced precision ARs I've ever built. Most who pick it up can't believe it is full sized in a powerful caliber. Working around barricades and odd positions, the difference in balance is immediately evident. The rifle's accuracy rivals many very high-dollar bolt rifles, and the barrel remains cool in the hot sun,

under load and during rapid fire. If I add a suppressor, it dissipates heat quickly. Velocity loss is kept to a minimum during long-range shooting, and if you're forced to carry it all day you really notice the difference in weight.

Many top 3-Gun competitors are starting to see the value in carbon-wrapped barrels. Moving between multiple targets, the ability to control "swing" is critical. Barrel weight is also hugely important in these conditions. These competitors are separated by tenths or even thousandths of a second. Add these differentials up over the course of a few stages and it can make a big difference, which is why carbon-wrapped barrels really shine here. After being tested over thousands of rounds a season under very harsh conditions, they are proving to be excellent and winning often. In sports where every advantage is taken, these types of barrels offer faster times with less fatigue while remaining incredibly accurate.

Entry teams like the ability to shave weight without needing a short barrel. Use a short barrel and add a titanium suppressor and you get the best of both worlds. For those units that spend a lot of time moving in and out of an area, the ability to maintain accuracy while saving a pound or more of weight may be important. Weight is everything to operators these days, and shaving it

off means more ammo on board or just less fatigue when you get to the target.

### EXTREME PERFORMANCE

In the last few years, I've tested carbon-wrapped barrels in numerous calibers and various lengths on bolt rifles and ARs from the best-known builders today. None have failed, even under some pretty harsh conditions. There is no hesitation on my part to count on them in any realistic environment. Nothing is perfect, and over the years many high-dollar steel barrels have been less than stellar, but carbon-wrapped barrels have been no worse and in some cases better.

There is always a downside, and so far that comes in the form of cost. Carbon-wrapped barrels can be very expensive, as much as three times the cost of a comparable barrel. If weight does not matter, the cost is likely prohibitive. But if weight savings is imperative, the barrels can be a game-changer. Moving to a carbon-wrapped barrel on my 6.5mm Creedmoor, 26-inch-barreled bolt-action rifle shaved almost 3 pounds of total weight when using a similar contour.

If you are looking at a custom build or just want to own a truly lightweight tack driver for home defense or hunting, take a look at carbon-fiber-wrapped barrels. They may just be exactly what you need, and they're only getting better and less costly each year.

**BG**

# ROCK RIVER

## From 9mm to .458 SOCOM, RRA's ARs give you the edge



BY ANDY MASSIMILIAN

**If you are looking for an AR-15 rifle for service rifle competition at Camp Perry, 3-Gun competition, or tactical, hunting or varmint shooting, Rock River Arms (RRA) probably has several models to satisfy you.**

The company makes one of the broadest AR-15 rifle lineups in the industry, with its product line spanning several calibers and even left-handed models for the southpaws out there. Rock River Arms even makes a short-barreled rifle AR-15 configuration. Moreover, if you can't find a model that's perfect, RRA offers multiple options to configure each rifle exactly the way you want it.

There are no fewer than 15 new AR-15 rifles in Rock River's lineup, and four of these are from the new IRS (Integrated Rifle Sights) series. IRS rifles are chambered in 5.56mm NATO and use a conventional RRA setup for the lower receiver and buttstock, but they incorporate four new design features that distinguish them from the rest of the line. These include a unique one-piece handguard, a Picatinny-style rail that extends without interruption from the upper receiver to the front of the handguard, integrated flip-up iron sights and a helical muzzle brake.

The aluminum handguard is hexagonal and has multiple vents to reduce weight and provide a comfortable gripping surface. This handguard free-floats the barrel, which is essential for an AR-15 rifle to maintain its accuracy. For mounting lights

and/or lasers, there's a mount on the front of the handguard at the 3 and 9 o'clock positions for two short accessory rails that are provided with the rifle. This handguard design's large ventilation holes and limited areas for Picatinny rail mounts is where the industry is trending for good reasons. Full-length Picatinny rails are heavier, and unused sections of the rail often need to be protected with covers if they're to be used as a grasping area.

Besides the handguard, IRS rifles feature a one-piece rail that extends from the rear of the upper receiver, just ahead of the charging handle, to the end of the handguard. The rail is topped with Picatinny-style slots. A flip-up, fully adjustable aperture sight sits at its rear. The rear sight is calibrated for moving point of impact 0.5 MOA with each click. The flip-up sights are a familiar pattern, and are made of steel and aluminum, not plastic. The front is a protected post that's adjustable for elevation by screwing the post up or down, while the aperture rear uses knobs to adjust for windage and elevation.

A new helical-style muzzle brake completes the IRS rifles series. This unique brake is 3 inches long, making it much longer than other designs. It is intended to significantly dampen recoil, making the rifle immediately appealing to 3-Gun shooters. The muzzle brake also features wrench flats at its base for easy removal and installation.

RRA offers four IRS rifles—CAR, MID, STD and XL—that differ with respect to their barrel and handguard lengths. The

CAR, MID and STD have 16-inch barrels but have different length handguards, while the XL has an 18-inch barrel and an extra-long handguard. (Note that the longer handguards also impact the weight and sight radius, with longer radius designs being slightly heavier and easier to aim.) All IRS rifle barrels are fluted.

Rock River's IRS rifles use the same low-profile gas blocks, Operator CAR adjustable buttstocks and Hogue rubber pistol grips. The Operator stock is RRA's own design that uses a commercial-diameter (slightly larger than mil-spec) buffer tube. The CAR stock has multiple features, including six-position adjustment, a sliding buttplate for effectively raising the cheekpiece height to better align the shooter's eye with an optical sight, battery stowage compartments and two sockets for quick-detach sling swivels. Each IRS rifle has a 1-MOA accuracy guarantee for a three-shot group using match ammo and a capable shooter.

### 7.62MM WARRIOR

AR-15 rifles chambered in 7.62x39mm have been around for years. Unfortunately, rifles that use the standard AR-15 lower receiver are often unreliable because the straight-walled magazine well of an AR-15 is not well suited to cartridges with tapered cases. Special magazine followers help, but there's no getting around the fact that the 7.62x39mm cartridge works far better in the AK's characteristically curved magazine, which doesn't fit the AR-15's magazine well.

# REGULATORS

over any threat!

LAR-47 rifles solve this feeding problem by using a radically redesigned AR-15 lower receiver that accepts many unmodified AK-47 magazines. The LAR-47 rifles use the AR-15's conventional direct impingement gas operating system with a carbine-length gas block. Like the AK-47, the LAR-47 lacks a bolt catch so the bolt closes on an empty magazine and cannot be locked open.

Rock River Arms offers four LAR-47 rifles chambered in 7.62x39mm: CAR A4, Delta Carbine, Coyote Carbine and Tactical Comp. Each uses a 16-inch barrel but differ in their handguards, grips, buttstocks and muzzle devices. Also, the Tactical Comp has forward sling swivels and a flip-up front sight while the Coyote Comp has a free-floated barrel and extended handguard.

The LAR-47 has a chrome-lined barrel and a chrome-plated bolt carrier, bolt, extractor, ejector and firing pin, which are all big pluses for this rifle given the availability of corrosively primed surplus ammo.

## PARABELLUM DEFENSE

One of RRA's more interesting series is the LAR-9, which is chambered in 9mm and operates via a blowback semi-automatic action. The lower receiver of the LAR-9 is a dedicated unit with an integral magazine well designed



specifically for running the 9mm cartridge.

There are two LAR-9 rifles offered: the CAR A4 and the Mid-length A4, whose main difference is the length of the handguard. The CAR uses the shorter 10-inch handguard and a front sight mounting block closer to the chamber, while the Mid-Length uses a 14-inch handguard. Both models have flattop upper receivers with Picatinny rails for user-supplied sights, A2-style collapsible buttstocks and rubber Hogue pistol grips.

RRA also sells 9mm conversion kits to convert standard AR-15 lowers to use the LAR-9 upper receiver. The kit includes a different upper, hammer, magazine, buffer and magazine well conversion block.

### .308 STRIKE FORCE

The LAR-8 rifles are chambered in .308 Win. and consist of six models: the Mid-Length A4, Standard A4, Elite Operator, Standard Operator, Predator HP and Varmint A4. All models have flattop upper receivers with integral Picatinny rails and feature ambidextrous magazine-release buttons, forward assists and shell deflectors on the upper receiver, and an ambidextrous bolt catch mounted just ahead of the triggerguard. They also have cryogenically treated barrels with 1-in-10-inch twists.

The Mid-Length and Standard A4 rifles have 16- and 20-inch barrels with A2-style birdcage flash suppressors and collapsible and fixed A2-style buttstocks, respectively.

Handguards on both rifles are the plastic A2 style; they are lined with aluminum heat shields and vary in length to match the barrel. RRA provided an accuracy spec of 1.5 and 1 MOA for the Mid-Length and Standard.

The Elite and Standard Operator have 16- and 20-inch barrels with Smith Vortex flash suppressors, aluminum handguards that free-float the barrel and flip-up front sights. The buttstock on the Elite is the RRA CAR collapsible, while the Standard's stock is fixed.

### ELITE PERFORMANCE

RRA's lineup of Piston Driven System (PDS) rifles and pistols use a short-stroke piston instead of the conventional direct

### Specifications

#### ROCK RIVER ARMS IRS CAR

<b>Caliber:</b>	5.56mm NATO
<b>Barrel:</b>	16 inches
<b>OA Length:</b>	34.5-38 inches
<b>Weight:</b>	7.6 pounds (empty)
<b>Stock:</b>	RRA Operator CAR
<b>Sights:</b>	Flip-up iron
<b>Action:</b>	Direct impingement semi-auto
<b>Finish:</b>	Matte black
<b>Capacity:</b>	30+1
<b>MSRP:</b>	\$1,540



#### ROCK RIVER ARMS IRS MID

<b>Caliber:</b>	5.56mm NATO
<b>Barrel:</b>	16 inches
<b>OA Length:</b>	34.5-38 inches
<b>Weight:</b>	7.8 pounds (empty)
<b>Stock:</b>	RRA Operator CAR
<b>Sights:</b>	Flip-up iron
<b>Action:</b>	Direct impingement semi-auto
<b>Finish:</b>	Matte black
<b>Capacity:</b>	30+1
<b>MSRP:</b>	\$1,565



#### ROCK RIVER ARMS IRS STD

<b>Caliber:</b>	5.56mm NATO
<b>Barrel:</b>	16 inches
<b>OA Length:</b>	34.5-38 inches
<b>Weight:</b>	8 pounds (empty)
<b>Stock:</b>	RRA Operator CAR
<b>Sights:</b>	Flip-up iron
<b>Action:</b>	Direct impingement semi-auto
<b>Finish:</b>	Matte black
<b>Capacity:</b>	30+1
<b>MSRP:</b>	\$1,590



#### ROCK RIVER ARMS IRS XL

<b>Caliber:</b>	5.56mm NATO
<b>Barrel:</b>	18 inches
<b>OA Length:</b>	36.5-40 inches
<b>Weight:</b>	8 pounds (empty)
<b>Stock:</b>	RRA Operator CAR
<b>Sights:</b>	Flip-up iron
<b>Action:</b>	Direct impingement semi-auto
<b>Finish:</b>	Matte black
<b>Capacity:</b>	30+1
<b>MSRP:</b>	\$1,620



#### ROCK RIVER ARMS LAR-47 X-1

<b>Caliber:</b>	7.62x39mm
<b>Barrel:</b>	18 inches
<b>OA Length:</b>	39 inches
<b>Weight:</b>	8.2 pounds (empty)
<b>Stock:</b>	RRA Operator A2
<b>Sights:</b>	None
<b>Action:</b>	Direct impingement semi-auto
<b>Finish:</b>	Matte black
<b>Capacity:</b>	30+1
<b>MSRP:</b>	\$1,650



#### ROCK RIVER ARMS LAR-9 CAR A4

<b>Caliber:</b>	9mm
<b>Barrel:</b>	16 inches
<b>OA Length:</b>	36 inches
<b>Weight:</b>	7.1 pounds (empty)
<b>Stock:</b>	RRA Six-Position Tactical CAR
<b>Sights:</b>	None
<b>Action:</b>	Direct impingement semi-auto
<b>Finish:</b>	Matte black
<b>Capacity:</b>	32+1
<b>MSRP:</b>	\$1,180



#### ROCK RIVER ARMS LAR-PDS

<b>Caliber:</b>	5.56mm NATO
<b>Barrel:</b>	16 inches
<b>OA Length:</b>	36 inches
<b>Weight:</b>	7.4 pounds (empty)
<b>Stock:</b>	RRA Six-Position Tactical
<b>Sights:</b>	None
<b>Action:</b>	Piston driven semi-auto
<b>Finish:</b>	Matte black
<b>Capacity:</b>	30+1
<b>MSRP:</b>	\$1,595



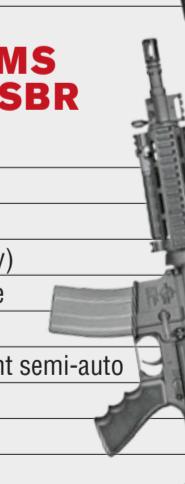
#### ROCK RIVER ARMS LAR-458 X-1

<b>Caliber:</b>	.458 SOCOM
<b>Barrel:</b>	18 inches
<b>OA Length:</b>	39.5 inches
<b>Weight:</b>	8.7 pounds (empty)
<b>Stock:</b>	RRA Operator A2
<b>Sights:</b>	None
<b>Action:</b>	Direct impingement semi-auto
<b>Finish:</b>	Matte black
<b>Capacity:</b>	10+1
<b>MSRP:</b>	\$1,645



#### ROCK RIVER ARMS LAR-15 PDW A4 SBR

<b>Caliber:</b>	5.56mm NATO
<b>Barrel:</b>	10.5 inches
<b>OA Length:</b>	24-28.3 inches
<b>Weight:</b>	7.2 pounds (empty)
<b>Stock:</b>	NEAG CCS Carbine
<b>Sights:</b>	None
<b>Action:</b>	Direct impingement semi-auto
<b>Finish:</b>	Matte black
<b>Capacity:</b>	30+1
<b>MSRP:</b>	\$1,220



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impingement design. PDS units have the recoil spring and guide rod mounted above the barrel, thereby eliminating the buffer tube assembly that protrudes behind the receiver on most AR-15s. This makes for a more compact firearm because PDS rifles can use folding stocks.

## HEAVY HITTER

For those who want the performance of the .458 SOCOM cartridge, the LAR-458 series has three models: the CAR A4, the Tactical Carbine and the Beast. Each has a 16-inch, free-floated barrel but different stocks, handguards and muzzle devices. The CAR A4 has a fixed stock, an aluminum tubular handguard and A2-style flash suppressor, while the Tactical Carbine has an extended handguard with short rails on the sides and a full-length rail on top, a Hogue rubber grip and a muzzle brake to control recoil. The Beast is configured with a different collapsible buttstock, a full-length handguard and a tactical muzzle brake.

## OPTIONS FOR ALL

The LAR-15 series is the broadest of RRA's lineup with 40 models available in 5.56mm NATO and an additional 14 left-handed versions. New for 2015 is the PDW A4 SBR, which is the company's first cataloged short-barrel rifle. The PDW is a flattop with a 10.5-inch barrel, an A2-style flash suppressor and an overall length of just 24 inches and 28.3 inches with its stock collapsed and extended, respectively.

The PDW is 2.5 inches shorter than comparably barreled SBRs because it uses a two-position NEAG CCS buttstock and a shortened bolt carrier to reduce the buffer length. The stock uses two steel rods that align alongside the receiver when collapsed.

RRA rifles are broad enough to fulfill a wide range of user preferences and mission requirements. They do this through a very functional R&D department and a process that allows buyers to configure a rifle with over a dozen equipment options that allow the customer to build a unique rifle right from the factory at a far lower cost than with aftermarket customization. If you want an AR-15 built a specific way, Rock River Arms is a great place to get it done. For more information, call 866-980-7625 or visit [rockriverarms.com](http://rockriverarms.com). **BG**

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# TRICON MK6

**LWRC's 5.56mm rifle delivers SEAL-tough performance when it counts!**



**BY ROB GARRETT**

**After a very successful career in the Naval Special Warfare community, Jeff Gonzales founded Trident Concepts with a goal to build a training curriculum to prepare students for “the worst day of their life.”**

He developed his program based on three principles. First, the tactics, techniques and procedures would be based on real-world battlefield experience. Second, high standards are an essential element in a training program. And third, “performance is what matters.”

Gonzales has some very specific preferences when it comes to gear. Like his courses, he is far more concerned about performance and reliability than appearances. This led Gonzales to partner with LWRC International on the TRICON series of rifles. The first TRICON MK6 was introduced in 2010 as a limited-edition, signature rifle. The series was

extremely

limited-edition rifle, with 500 units in Sniper Gray and 500 units in Flat Dark Earth. This rifle combines LWRC quality and reliability with professional components as specified by Gonzales. To borrow a phrase from Gonzales, this rifle is designed to get you through “the worst day of your life.”

## **WARRIOR ELITE**

The IC platform was developed to compete in the military's RFP for an improved M4/M16. The most notable improvement is the fully ambidextrous lower receiver. The left-sided magazine release is a large paddle that is recessed between two raised ribs. The ribs prevent an inadvertent magazine dump and provide a tactile guide that assists in locating the paddle. The bolt catch, on the right side, is a mirror image of the standard unit and is easily manipulated with the trigger finger. While the standard IC carbine is equipped with an ambidextrous safety, Gonzales specifically set up the TRICON with a mil-spec, left-side-only safety/selector. Based on his experience, Gonzales also specified a B5 SOPMOD stock for a positive mount and cheekweld.

Gonzales also requested that the MK6 be equipped with Geissele's Super TRICON two-stage trigger. The Super TRICON is a non-adjustable variant of the popular Geissele SSA trigger. It is



successful for both LWRC and Gonzales. Since then, Gonzales has become an ambassador for the company.

When LWRC introduced its new M6 Individual Carbine (IC) design, it was only natural that Gonzales would update his signature rifle to the new platform. The new TRICON MK6 is a lim-



LWRC designed the TRICON MK6 with input from Jeff Gonzales of Trident Concepts, a former Navy SEAL with plenty of battle-proven experience. LOWER LEFT: A shooter puts the TRICON MK6 through its paces with an Aimpoint Micro T-2.

designed for close quarters and midrange engagements with a trigger pull of 4.5 pounds.

My test rifle averaged slightly more than this at 5.25 pounds. The Super TRICON features a trigger bow that extends straight toward the bottom of the triggerguard by approximately 7 degrees for greater leverage. The face of the trigger is serrated to assist in proper placement of the trigger finger.

The LWRC Monoforge upper receiver is mated with a low-profile, 9-inch SPR rail that has threaded positions on the 3, 6 and 9 o'clock axes that allows the user to mount Picatinny rail sections where required. The short rail reduces the overall weight and improves the balance of the rifle. The rail, without the Picatinny accessory rails, measures approximately 6.125 inches in diameter, making it very comfortable to index. A Bravo Company Gunfighter Gen4 charging handle enhances operations in adverse conditions or while wearing gloves, while the Magpul MIAD pistol grip provides a solid purchase. Gonzales also prefers a vertical pistol grip to aid in mounting and indexing the rifle. The MK6 comes standard with TangoDown's short vertical grip.

My test rifle featured a 14.7-inch, 1-in-7-inch-twist barrel with a permanently pinned GI flash suppressor. This

configuration is the most compact rifle in a non-NFA configuration. The TRICON MK6 also features LWRC's spiral fluting, which reduces weight, improves cooling and looks great.

When it came to sights, Gonzales specified the new Magpul MBUS Pro backup sights. The Pro sights feature all-steel construction and are finished in Melonite QPQ for enhanced protection from wear and corrosion. These sights also have an extremely low profile and lack the obtrusive base found on some designs. The rear sight has a small aperture that is 0.07 inches in diameter, while the large aperture is 0.19 inches. The square front sight post is protected by wings on either side. Adjustments for windage and elevation are made via dials that require

no tools. Finally, our test rifle featured an attractive Sniper Gray Cerakote finish.

## AT THE RANGE

I was anxious to get some range time with the new Magpul Pro series sights. Prior to mounting any optic on the rifle, we zeroed the iron sights from the 50-yard bench. Adjustments, while firm, were easily accomplished with the thumb and forefinger. I found that the tapered rear tower provided excellent peripheral vision around the sight, especially when shooting with both eyes open. Using the Magpul sights, I was able to cluster five shots into a 2-inch group. I quickly realized that I had become far too dependent on an optic. The Pro sights gave me a much greater appreciation of just

### LWRC TRICON MK6 5.56MM

#### Specifications

<b>Caliber:</b>	5.56mm NATO
<b>Barrel:</b>	14.7 inches
<b>OA Length:</b>	31.75-35 inches
<b>Weight:</b>	7 pounds (empty)
<b>Stock:</b>	B5 SOPMOD
<b>Sights:</b>	Magpul MBUS Pro
<b>Action:</b>	Direct impingement semi-auto
<b>Finish:</b>	Cerakote
<b>Capacity:</b>	30+1
<b>MSRP:</b>	\$2,749

#### Performance

Load	Velocity	Accuracy
Hornady TAP 55 Urban	2,857	0.86
HPR 60 V-MAX	2,422	0.77
Rug Swiss P 69 Styx Action	2,555	1.28

*Bullet weight measured in grains, velocity in fps by chronograph and accuracy in inches for best five-shot groups at 100 yards.*

how effective proper iron sights can be. After getting the BUIS zeroed, we conducted 100-yard accuracy testing using the Leupold Mark 4 2.5-8x36mm M2 tactical scope with a LaRue Tactical SPR mount. The TMR reticle and light-gathering capabilities make the Mark 4 series of scopes ideal for both sporting and law enforcement/military use. The illuminated reticle also provides a low-light capability, and the 2.5-8x magnification makes this an extremely versatile optic. The Mark 4 has become my standard glass for any AR evaluation. The LaRue Tactical SPR mount

provides the proper elevation and will retain the scope's zero when reattached.

We tested three favorite loads from 100 yards. The Hornady TAP series of ammunition is a favorite of the law enforcement community, with the 55-grain TAP being the most versatile load. The 55-grain TAP round averaged 2,857 fps from the 14.7-inch barrel and produced a group that measured 0.86 inches. HPR is a relative newcomer to the ammo industry but one that I have come to appreciate. HPR's 60-grain V-MAX load averaged 2,422 fps and produced the smallest group of the day, measuring

0.77 inches. The final load was the RUAG Swiss P 69-grain Styx Action. This load is specifically designed for tactical use where overpenetration is a concern. The Styx Action load averaged 2,555 fps and produced a group that measured 1.28 inches.

After getting the "work" out of the way, we mounted Aimpoint's new Micro T-2 for some quick, fun drills. The TRICON MK6 package is ideally suited for anyone who is serious about having a rifle for recreation, hunting or, as Gonzales says, "the worst day of your life!" For more information, visit [lwrc.com](http://lwrc.com) or call 410-901-1348.

**BG**


## 5 MORE FROM THE LWRC ARSENAL

### IC-A5

The IC-A5 is one of the newest models in the IC product line. Customers desired and requested an adjustable gas block and the longer 12-inch, SPR-style rail system on the same rifle. The IC-A5 has a low-profile, two-position gas block that allows the user to compensate for running a suppressor while getting the added benefit of the company's longer modular rail system. A spiral-fluted version of the cold-hammer-forged barrel is standard on the 14.7- and 16.1-inch barrel lengths. The spiral-fluted barrel is approximately 15-percent lighter than an unfluted barrel of the same diameter. The increased surface area also speeds cooling.



### SPECIFICATIONS

**Caliber:** 5.56mm  
**Barrel:** 14.7 or 16.1 inches  
**OA Length:** 32-35.25 inches  
**Weight:** 7.25 pounds (empty)  
**Stock:** LWRC adjustable  
**Sights:** Skirmish front and rear  
**Action:** Direct impingement semi-auto  
**Finish:** Matte black  
**Capacity:** 30+1 • **MSRP:** N/A

### IC-SPR

The IC-SPR is LWRC's flagship and most popular model. This is a great all-around 5.56mm rifle that utilizes LWRC's most popular features—a fluted barrel, ambidextrous controls and its SPR modular rail system. The IC-SPR variant utilizes the same cold-hammer-forged, spiral-fluted barrel as the IC Enhanced. The SPR employs a low-profile, fixed gas block for the piston system and a longer 12-inch, user-configurable modular rail system.



### SPECIFICATIONS

**Caliber:** 5.56mm  
**Barrel:** 14.7 inches  
**OA Length:** 32-35.25 inches  
**Weight:** 7.1 pounds (empty)  
**Stock:** LWRC Compact  
**Sights:** Skirmish front and rear  
**Action:** Piston-operated semi-auto  
**Finish:** Matte black, FDE, olive drab, patriot brown  
**Capacity:** 30+1  
**MSRP:** N/A

### IC-PDW

The IC-PDW is the smallest and most unique rifle of the IC family. This gun is designed to be an ultra-compact personal defense weapon. The IC-PDW comes standard with an 8.5-inch, NiCorr-treated barrel. With a quick-deploy, two-position stock, its compact size and light weight means it can be carried and deployed in a variety of roles. The PDW comes with the same ambidextrous lower controls as the other IC family members. The IC-PDW is the only LWRC rifle that boasts the unique PDW telescoping stock, helping make it one of the most compact piston rifles on the market.



### SPECIFICATIONS

**Caliber:** 5.56mm  
**Barrel:** 8.5 inches  
**OA Length:** 20.5-25.5 inches  
**Weight:** 5.9 pounds (empty)  
**Stock:** LWRC PDW  
**Sights:** Skirmish front and rear  
**Action:** Piston-operated semi-auto  
**Finish:** Matte black, FDE, olive drab, patriot brown  
**Capacity:** 30+1  
**MSRP:** N/A

### SIX8 A5

When LWRC designed the SIX8 family of weapons, the company partnered with Magpul, which designed the first polymer 6.8mm SPC magazine. Building upon the magazine, LWRC designed the SIX8 platform for maximum reliability and improved ergonomics. The upper and lower receivers are designed to accommodate the slightly larger polymer magazine and to perfect the feed geometry for the 6.8mm SPC cartridge. As with the IC family, the weapons in the new SIX8 family are fully ambidextrous and equally suited to right- or left-handed operators. These ergonomic, user-friendly rifles utilize the outstanding mid-range 6.8mm SPC cartridge.

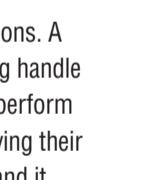


### SPECIFICATIONS

**Caliber:** 6.8mm SPC  
**Barrel:** 10.5, 14.7 or 16.1 inches  
**OA Length:** 31.25-34 inches  
**Weight:** 7.3 pounds  
**Stock:** Collapsible  
**Sights:** Skirmish front and rear  
**Action:** Piston-operated semi-auto  
**Finish:** Black, FDE, olive drab, patriot brown  
**Capacity:** 30+1  
**MSRP:** N/A

### REPR

The LWRC Rapid Engagement Precision Rifle (REPR) is designed to put devastating 7.62mm rounds on target in a variety of roles. The REPR rifle allows a marksman to perform assaulter duty with the 16-inch-barreled upper installed, then quickly switch to a sniper role by changing to the 20-inch-barreled upper. The rifle utilizes LWRC's self-regulating, short-stroke gas-piston operating system, ensuring unparalleled reliability in the harshest conditions. A side-mounted charging handle allows the shooter to perform reloads without removing their eyes from the target, and it prevents any gas blowback to the face when using a suppressor. The ARM-R rails are easily removable and reinstalled with a hex key.



### SPECIFICATIONS

**Caliber:** 7.62mm  
**Barrel:** 16.1 or 20 inches  
**OA Length:** 40.8-41.5 inches  
**Weight:** 9.5 pounds (empty)  
**Stock:** B5 SOPMOD  
**Sights:** Backup iron  
**Action:** Piston-operated semi-auto  
**Finish:** Matte black, FDE, olive drab, patriot brown  
**Capacity:** 30+1 • **MSRP:** N/A





# M-LOK

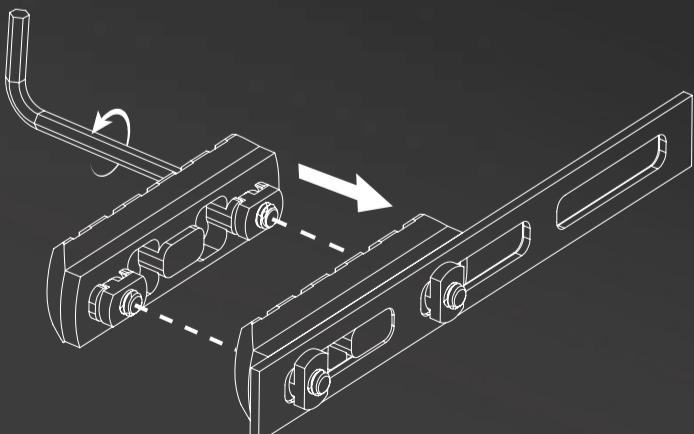
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# LIGHTS & LASERS

**BY ROBERT A. SADOWSKI**

**Target identification is absolutely necessary in a low-light or no-light situation.**

A tactical light that shines a beam of white light on a target aids in differentiating friend from foe. A light backed up by an aiming laser makes shooting a weapon after target identification fast and sure. Lasers also aid in firing an AR in unconventional shooting positions, and IR lasers offer stealth when night fighting with night-vision gear.



Photo courtesy Wilcox



**LASERLYTE  
TRAINING TYME  
AR-LT-C556 KIT**



**BCMGUNFIGHTER  
LIGHT MOUNTS**



**LASERMAX  
UNI-IR  
RIFLE  
PACK**



**BCMGUNFIGHTER  
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The BCMGUNFIGHTER series of light mounts for KeyMod platforms delivers fully ambidextrous usage and are machined from solid billet aluminum with a low-profile and snag-free design. The mounts are engineered to mount flush or cantilevered off either the left or right side of a rail system, are compatible with most common Picatinny rail systems, and are offered in three primary configurations: 1913 KeyMod Modular Light Mount, Scout KeyMod Modular Light Mount and One Inch Modular KeyMod Light Mount. (bravocompanyusa.com; 877-272-8626)

**CRIMSON TRACE  
CMR-206**

This is a super compact green laser designed to fit on pistols, shotguns or rifles. The CMR-206 is compatible with any Picatinny/Weaver rail system. Ambidextrous controls make activation simple and easy with three modes of operation: momentary, strobe or constant on. The device will run for two hours of constant use. (crimsontrace.com; 800-442-2406)

**LASERLYTE  
TRAINING TYME  
AR-LT-C556 KIT**

This training kit is specifically set up for use in AR rifles and includes a .223-sized laser cartridge, a 32-inch push rod to eject the laser cartridge from most barrel lengths, an oversized charging handle to re-cock the weapon, allowing the rifle's hammer to activate the laser when the trigger is pulled, and a charging block that prevents live ammo from being chambered. The easy-to-install system works with any .223-caliber AR. (laserlyte.com; 928-649-3201)

**LASERMAX UNI-IR  
RIFLE PACK**

The Uni-IR (infrared) unit is the smallest and lightest IR laser available. The Class I IR laser unit only takes up 1.75 inches of rail space and it uses two 357 silver oxide batteries. The unit's run time is six hours. The Uni-IR mounts quickly to any Weaver or Picatinny-style rail. The rifle pack kit includes genuine MAS (Momentary Activation Switch) and genuine Manta clips to keep cords neat. (lasermax.com; 800-527-3703)

**CRIMSON TRACE CMR-206**

# LIGHTS & LASERS



**STREAMLIGHT  
TLR-1 HPL**



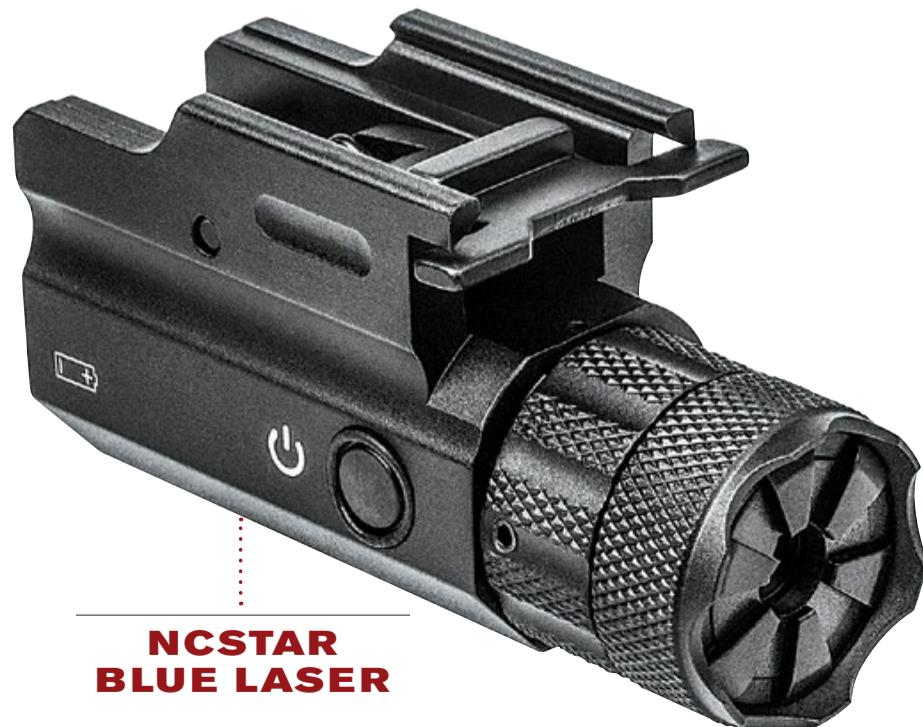
**NCSTAR  
GREEN LASER  
& 4 COLOR  
NAV LED**

**“A light backed up  
by an aiming laser makes  
shooting a weapon after  
target identification  
fast and sure. ”**



**SUREFIRE  
M600AA  
SCOUT LIGHT**

**SUN OPTICS USA  
ILLUMINATED  
LASER LIGHT**



**NCSTAR GREEN LASER  
& 4 COLOR NAV LED**

The Green Laser and 4 Color NAV LED designator box combines a fully-adjustable 5mW green laser with LED NAV lights in four colors: white, red, green or blue. The low-power LED NAV light is good for maneuvering while using night-vision gear as well as supplementing brighter tactical lights. The unit includes a remote pressure switch and runs on one CR123A battery. (ncstar.com; 866-627-8278)

**NCSTAR  
BLUE LASER**

The Blue Laser from NCStar is the first blue laser offered in the U.S. The device offers a brightness level that falls between the brightness of red and green lasers. The unit features a built-in mount that fits any Picatinny/Weaver rails, and it offers 30+ hours of run time on one CR123A battery. (ncstar.com; 866-627-8278)

**STREAMLIGHT  
TLR-1 HPL**

The TLR-1 HPL is a long-range (the beam can project out to 438 meters), 775-lumen lithium light that mounts to a weapon's rail system. The unit is shockproof and provides 1.75 hours of run time on two CR123A batteries. Either a standard or remote switch activates the light. (streamlight.com; 800-523-7488)

**STREAMLIGHT  
TLR-2 IRW**

The TLR-2 IRW integrates a 300-lumen, lithium light and a Class I, eye-safe, IR, long-range aiming laser in a compact unit that mounts to an AR's Picatinny or Weaver rail. The unit is shockproof, made of 6000 series aluminum and weighs only 4.72 ounces. The two CR123A batteries provides 2.5 hours of run time. The TLR-2 IRW is compatible with a remote switch. (streamlight.com; 800-523-7488)

**SUN OPTICS USA  
ILLUMINATED  
LASER LIGHT**

This compact combo aiming laser and white tactical light offers a 250-lumen LED light to punch holes in the dark and a 5mW green laser to pinpoint a target. The unit's three-way activation switch allows for the use of the light only, light and laser, or laser only. It also features a built-in mount for use on most rail systems and comes with two pressure cords. (sunopticsusa.com; 817-783-6001)

**SUREFIRE M600AA  
SCOUT LIGHT**

The M600AA Scout Light from SureFire features a recoil-proof, high-output, 200-lumen, LED light that is ideal for close- to medium-range applications. The unit is powered by either AA lithium or AA alkaline batteries—the latter being more readily available worldwide, particularly in remote areas—and its runtime is 3.75 hours at the highest setting. The device's overall length is 6.8 inches and it weighs 5.2 ounces. (surefire.com; 800-828-8809)

# LIGHTS & LASERS

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**WILCOX  
RAPTAR LITE  
ES CLASS1  
INFRARED  
LASER**



**UTG SUB-COMPACT  
LED LIGHT & AIMING  
ADJUSTABLE  
RED LASER**

**VIRIDIAN  
X5L-RS**



## UTG SUB-COMPACT LED LIGHT & AIMING ADJUSTABLE RED LASER

UTG combines a red laser and white LED light in a small package that can fit on most Picatinny/Weaver style rails. The light offers 120 lumens of power and a class 3R red laser that is adjustable for windage and elevation. The unit is only 2.4 inches long and weighs 2.4 ounces. (leapers.com; 734-542-1500)

## VIRIDIAN X5L-RS

The X5L-RS is designed to bring peak green laser and white light performance to your long gun. A unique rotary selector dials in multiple light and laser modes. An exclusive two-button pressure pad puts optimum light and laser control at your fingertips. A bright 178/224-lumen tactical light delivers blinding power and the brilliant green laser ensures sharp, clear targeting day or night. (viridiangreenlaser.com; 800-990-9390)

## WILCOX RAPTAR LITE ES CLASS1 INFRARED LASER

The RAPTAR (RAPid TARgeting) integrates sophisticated electronics into one unit with a 300-lumen SureFire LED white light head, a Class I infrared laser, and a variable-focus infrared illuminator. All functions are controlled via onboard buttons or a remote pressure switch. The laser pointers are slaved together for easy zeroing. (tnvc.com; 909-796-7000)

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# WINDHAM

From 300 Blackout  
to 5.56mm,  
these hard-hitting ARs  
are bred for elite accuracy  
and reliability!

The Windham Weaponry CDI, an M4-style carbine chambered in 5.56mm NATO, comes equipped with Diamondhead's sights and forend. Shown here with a 4x32mm Browe Combat Optic.

# WARRIORS

BY JORGE AMSELLE



**By now, many fans of the AR rifle have heard of Windham Weaponry, but those who have not should be aware that while this may be a new name, it is not a new endeavor.**

Windham Weaponry represents the rebirth of a famous AR manufacturer laid dormant by a corporate relocation. What remained behind was all of the manufacturing know-how and experienced employees dedicated to building extremely high-quality AR rifles and carbines. I have personally tested several of the company's rifles and every one performed flawlessly and delivered superb accuracy.

**5.56 CDI:** The CDI rifle from Windham Weaponry is designed to deliver exceptional performance at a reasonable price. The 5.56mm carbine sports a 16-inch barrel with a 1-in-9-inch twist that is made of 4150 chrome moly vanadium steel, chrome-lined and topped off with a high-performance Vortex flash suppressor. The forged upper and lower receivers are made from 7075-T6 aluminum, and the upper features a flattop for accepting optics. The forend of the carbine is a Diamondhead free-floating unit equipped with a Mag-

pul AFG foregrip. A Magpul MOE pistol grip and six-position collapsible stock round out the package.

**300 BLACKOUT:** One of the company's latest offerings is the Windham Weaponry 300 Blackout, which represents the first rifle it has offered in this caliber. The rifle features all of the detail and quality that are standard in the company's full line of rifles. This semi-automatic uses a direct gas impingement system of operation and includes all the standard AR controls for a right-handed shooter. The safety selector is not ambidextrous, but there are clear markings on both sides of the receiver to make it easier to see the condition of the rifle from either side. The upper and lower receivers are made from forged 7075-T6 aluminum and feature a matte black finish.

The medium-profile, 16-inch barrel has a 1-in-7-inch twist rate to better stabilize the heavier .30-caliber bullets and is made from mil-spec 4150 chrome moly vanadium steel. There are M4 feed ramps at the rear for improved reliability, and at the muzzle Windham Weaponry has added the Diamondhead T Brake. This hardened steel compensator features a triangular shape to redirect gasses and substantially reduces recoil and muzzle rise. The shape of the muzzle brake also matches the free-floated Diamondhead VRS-T 13.5-inch handguard, which extends almost to the brake itself.

This handguard allows the barrel to remain free-floating, helping to improve accuracy, and features a fully uninterrupted length of rail on the top of the rifle for optics and accessories. Made from 6061 aluminum, the handguard offers a smooth bottom and sides for user comfort, but additional side and bottom rails are available and easily installed if needed.

Windham Weaponry has also upgraded this rifle with the addition of an ergonomic Hogue pistol grip, which features comfortable and pebbled rubber over-molding, finger grooves and a beavertail to help place the trigger finger in proper alignment. Also



included is the Hogue six-position collapsible stock for an adjustable length of pull and a comfortable cheekrest. There are multiple QD sling attachment points on the handguard and stock, and the rifle also includes a Magpul enhanced triggerguard for easier access with gloves.

### WAY OF THE GUN

Modern shooters are increasingly demanding fully customized firearms direct from the factory. Windham Weaponry is now offering the Way of the Gun Performance Carbine to meet this growing demand. Based on the shooting principles of former Special Forces veteran and current instructor Frank Proctor, this rifle is built to meet the most demanding standards and challenging conditions, and is engraved with the "Way of the Gun" logo.

This 5.56mm, mid-length-gas-system carbine features all of the details that make Windham Weaponry guns what they are, including a mil-spec barrel and carpenter 158 steel bolt. The much-appreciated extras on this exclusive offering includes the excellent BCM charging handle, which makes one-handed operation of the AR much easier while allowing the operator to

keep a firm hold on the pistol grip. The standard mil-spec trigger has been replaced with a crisper and lighter CMC trigger.

The rifle's 16-inch, 4150 chrome moly vanadium steel barrel remains free-floating thanks to the Midwest Industries 15-inch SS KeyMod Handguard. This

**“I have personally tested several of the company's rifles and every one performed flawlessly and delivered superb accuracy. ”**

lightweight and well-ventilated aluminum handguard features multiple QD sling swivel attachment points and a full-length top rail. The barrel is topped off with the very effective BCM Mod 1 compensator, which both reduces felt recoil and muzzle rise as well as muzzle flash. You also get a BMC Gunfighter Mod 2 pistol grip with internal storage and the Magpul MOE six-position collapsible stock. Final-

ly, each rifle ships complete with a Way of the Gun DVD and operator's manual.

### BIG-BORE PERFORMANCE

The Windham Weaponry 7.62x39mm SRC is an AR carbine with all of the versatility and features American shooters appreciate, but it's chambered in the cheap and easy-to-find 7.62x39mm round. The round uses a tapered case, which necessitates a distinctly curved magazine, especially the 30 rounder that comes standard. The rifle also uses a different bolt than a standard AR.

You still get a direct gas impingement, semi-automatic rifle with a chrome-lined, 16-inch barrel that's made from 4150 chrome moly vanadium. The barrel offers a 1-in-9.5-inch twist rate and is topped off with an A2 flash suppressor. You also get all of the standard AR controls, including a six-position collapsible stock and a flattop upper.

As the name implies, "SRC" stands for "Sight Ready Carbine," and there is a length of rail in place of the A2 front sight. This allows for the user to select whatever backup sights or optics you prefer for front and rear. New U.S.-made 7.62x39mm ammunition offers greater versatility for hunting or range uses than Eastern Bloc

### Specifications

#### WINDHAM WEAPONRY CDI

Caliber:	5.56mm NATO
Barrel:	16 inches
OA Length:	32.37-36.12 inches
Weight:	7.02 pounds (empty)
Stock:	Magpul MOE
Sights:	Diamondhead flip-up front and rear
Action:	Direct impingement semi-auto
Finish:	Matte black
Capacity:	30+1
MSRP:	\$1,680

#### WINDHAM WEAPONRY 300 BLACKOUT

Caliber:	300 BLK
Barrel:	16 inches
OA Length:	34-37.25 inches
Weight:	6.95 pounds (empty)
Stock:	Hogue collapsible
Sights:	None
Action:	Direct impingement semi-auto
Finish:	Matte black
Capacity:	30+1
MSRP:	\$1,680



#### WINDHAM WEAPONRY WAY OF THE GUN PERFORMANCE CARBINE

Caliber:	5.56mm NATO
Barrel:	16 inches
OA Length:	32.37-36.12 inches
Weight:	6.3 pounds (empty)
Stock:	Magpul MOE
Sights:	None
Action:	Direct impingement semi-auto
Finish:	Matte black
Capacity:	30+1
MSRP:	\$1,795

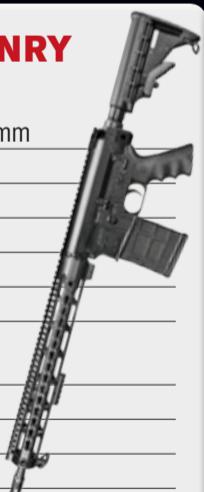
#### WINDHAM WEAPONRY 7.62x39 SRC

Caliber:	7.62x39mm
Barrel:	16 inches
OA Length:	32.37-36.12 inches
Weight:	6.15 pounds (empty)
Stock:	Collapsible
Sights:	None
Action:	Direct impingement semi-auto
Finish:	Matte black
Capacity:	30+1
MSRP:	\$1,056



#### WINDHAM WEAPONRY R16SFST-308

Caliber:	.308 Winchester/7.62mm
Barrel:	16.5 inches
OA Length:	34.18-38 inches
Weight:	8 pounds (empty)
Stock:	Collapsible
Sights:	None
Action:	Direct impingement semi-auto
Finish:	Matte black
Capacity:	20+1
MSRP:	\$1,645



#### WINDHAM WEAPONRY 308 HUNTER

Caliber:	.308 Winchester/7.62mm
Barrel:	18 inches
OA Length:	39.5 inches
Weight:	8.5 pounds (empty)
Stock:	Laminated wood
Sights:	None
Action:	Direct impingement semi-auto
Finish:	Electroless nickel
Capacity:	5+1
MSRP:	\$1,587



military surplus, further expanding the attractiveness of this chambering.

## TACTICAL .308

Eugene Stoner originally designed the AR to be a big-bore .308 battle rifle. It was only after the U.S. Air Force requested a lighter rifle that the AR we know more commonly today came about. The Windham Weaponry R16SFST-308 not only returns the AR to its original loading but adds many distinct tactical features more commonly found on .223-chambered ARs.

This semi-automatic rifle maintains the AR's distinct direct gas impingement system and uses a matte black, forged aircraft-grade 7075-T6 aluminum upper and lower receiver. The lower receiver features all of the familiar AR controls and a forged integrated triggerguard as well as ambidextrous QD sling swivel attachment points. The flattop upper receiver melds almost seamlessly with the Midwest Industries free-floating 15-inch KeyMod handguard for easy mounting of extended optics, night vision as well as backup iron sights. The handguard itself makes it easy to add an

additional length of rail where needed and includes multiple QD sling point at the front.

The 16.5-inch barrel is chrome lined and made from 4150 chrome moly vanadium steel. It offers a 1-in-10-inch twist rate and an A2 flash suppressor. A six-position collapsible stock makes length of pull adjustments a breeze to fit the rifle to the shooter. The ergonomic Hogue rubber overmolded, finger-grooved grip increases comfort and provides a firm hold even in inclement conditions. A Magpul 20-round P-MAG is included.

## .308 HUNTER

For hunting, the .308 Winchester is suitable and effective for every large game animal in North America and is just as capable as a long-range cartridge (I have shot targets at over 1,400 yards with it).

The Windham Weaponry .308 Hunter is designed for the North American big-game hunter and offers all of the advantages of the AR in a more demure package that will appeal to traditionalists. You get standard, high-quality, forged 7075-T6 aircraft aluminum upper and lower receivers, direct gas

impingement semi-automatic operation and the standard AR controls, but there are also many custom features.

The 18-inch, chrome-lined 4150 chrome moly vanadium barrel has a 1-in-10-inch twist and is fluted for weight reduction. The A2 flash suppressor is removable for installing a sound suppressor (suppressor hunting is legal in a growing number of states). The flattop upper receiver makes mounting optics very easy and the Hogue overmolded, rubberized grip provides all-day comfort and a firm hold when the weather gets rough. Most notable, however, is the rifle's laminated, pepper grey wood stock and handguard, which offer a rubber buttpad and a weather-resistant finish. The electroless nickel finish on the upper and lower receivers matches up perfectly with the wood furniture. You also get a standard five-round magazine for legal hunting.

All Windham Weaponry rifles come with a hard plastic gun case, a black web sling, an operators manual and a fully transferable lifetime warranty. For more information, visit [windhamweaponry.com](http://windhamweaponry.com) or call 855-808-1888.

**BG**



*Windham Weaponry*  
**NEW!**

• .300 Blackout Caliber (7.62 x 35mm)  
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• Hogue Overmolded Rubber Pistol Grip  
• Forged 7075 T6 Aluminum Receivers  
• 30 Round Magazine  
• Transferable Lifetime Warranty

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**.300 BLACKOUT PISTOL**  
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# EXTREME AR UPERS



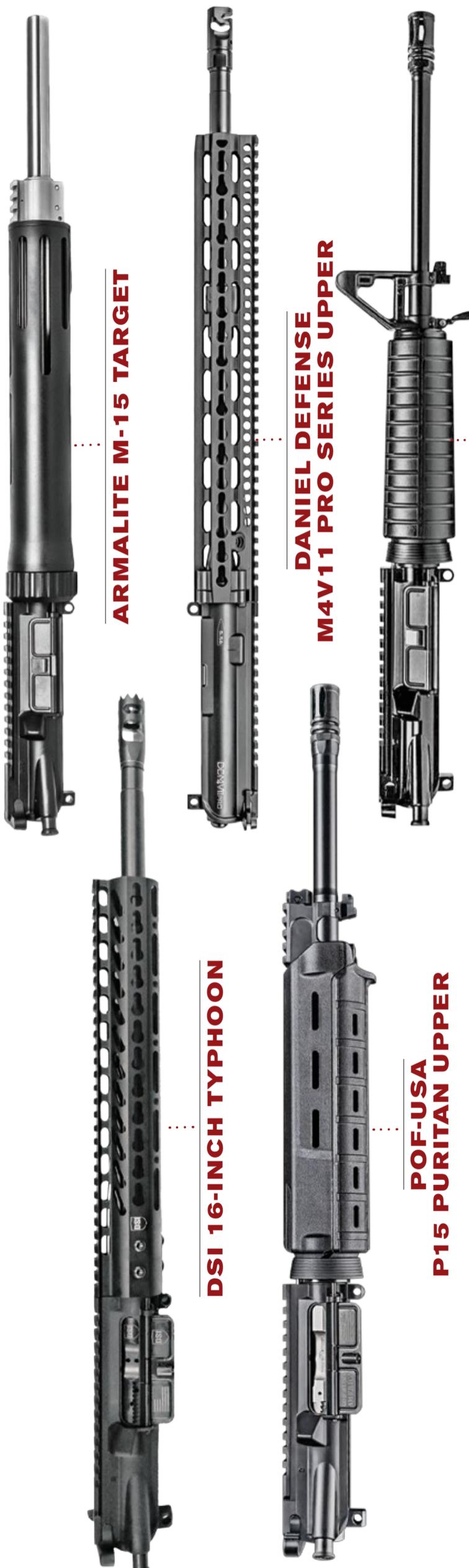
BY ROBERT A. SADOWSKI



David Balde photo

**Part of the AR's ingenious design lies with two pins:** the takedown pin and the pivot pin. Pop out these two pins and the upper receiver can be removed and swapped, allowing a user to instantly change the caliber of an AR, or for specific needs like CQB or long-distance shooting, reduce or increase barrel length, respectively. AR uppers give you options, and here are a few of today's best.

**BCM UPERS**



**ARMALITE M-15 TARGET**

**POF-USA  
P15 PURITAN UPPER**

**DANIEL DEFENSE  
M4V11 PRO SERIES UPPER**

**DEL-TON AR-15 16-INCH PRE-BAN FLAT TOP**

**DSI 16-INCH TYPHOON**

**ARMALITE M-15 TARGET**

## **ARMALITE M-15 TARGET**

Chambered for the 5.56mm, this upper features a 20-inch, stainless steel barrel that is triple-lapped and free-floated in an aluminum handguard for increased accuracy at distance. The barrel has a right-hand, 1-in-8-inch twist rate and a heavy profile to help dampen harmonics. The receiver is made of forged 7075-T6 aluminum and sports a hard-coat anodized finish. (armalite.com; 800-336-0184)

## **BCM UPERS**

All of the BCM flattop uppers feature laser-etched "T" marks to make consistent remounting of sights and accessories easier. Standard uppers match or exceed GI specs, with 1-in-7-inch twist, chrome-moly barrels with chromed bores and 5.56mm NATO chambers. The barrels are subjected to the M197 high-pressure test load, rated for 70,000 psi, and then undergo magnetic-particle inspection to detect any possible flaws in the barrel's surface. (bravocompanyusa.com; 877-272-8626)

## **DANIEL DEFENSE M4V11 PRO SERIES UPPER**

Designed for competitors looking for the platform to win multi-gun matches, Daniel Defense's M4v11 Pro Series upper receiver group features an 18-inch barrel that is cold-hammer forged. An uninterrupted Picatinny rail on top and KeyMod slots at 3, 6 and 9 o'clock provide room for accessories and optics, and the long, 15-inch forend rail offers a lot of hand placement real estate. A Vltor Gunfighter Mod 4 charging handle and a newly designed Muzzle Climb Mitigator round out the package. (danieldefense.com; 866-554-4867)

## **DSI 16-INCH TYPHOON**

The 16-inch-barreled, 5.56mm Typhoon upper from Dark Storm Industries (DSI) features DSI's Ultralight Narrow Profile KeyMod 12-inch handguard. It uses a micro gas block and the traditional direct impingement system. The barrel has an M4 profile and a 1-in-9-inch twist rate. (dark-storm.com; 800-963-7700)

## **DEL-TON AR-15 16-INCH PRE-BAN FLAT TOP**

Del-Ton's 5.56mm Pre-Ban Flat Top upper comes with a heavy-profile, chrome-moly-vanadium barrel with a 1-in-9-inch twist rate, M4-style feed ramps, CAR handguards with a single heat shield and an A2-style flash suppressor. The receiver is made from forged 7075-T6 aluminum and features a forward assist, all with a hardcoat anodized finish. (del-ton.com; 910-645-2172)

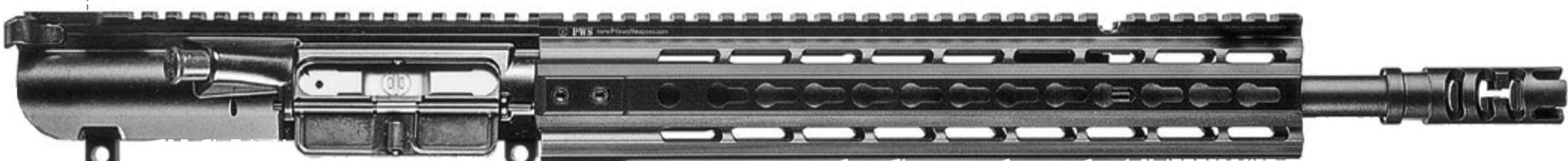
## **POF-USA P15 PURITAN UPPER**

Featuring a short-stroke gas piston system, the P15 Puritan upper sports a 16.5-inch, nitride-heat-treated barrel chambered in 5.56mm NATO. The upper also features POF-USA's E<sup>2</sup> dual-extraction chamber technology, and the railed gas block has an integral QD sling swivel mount and bayonet lug. A Magpul MOE forend is included, and the receiver is forged from 7075-T6 aluminum. (pof-usa.com; 623-561-9572)

# AR UPERS



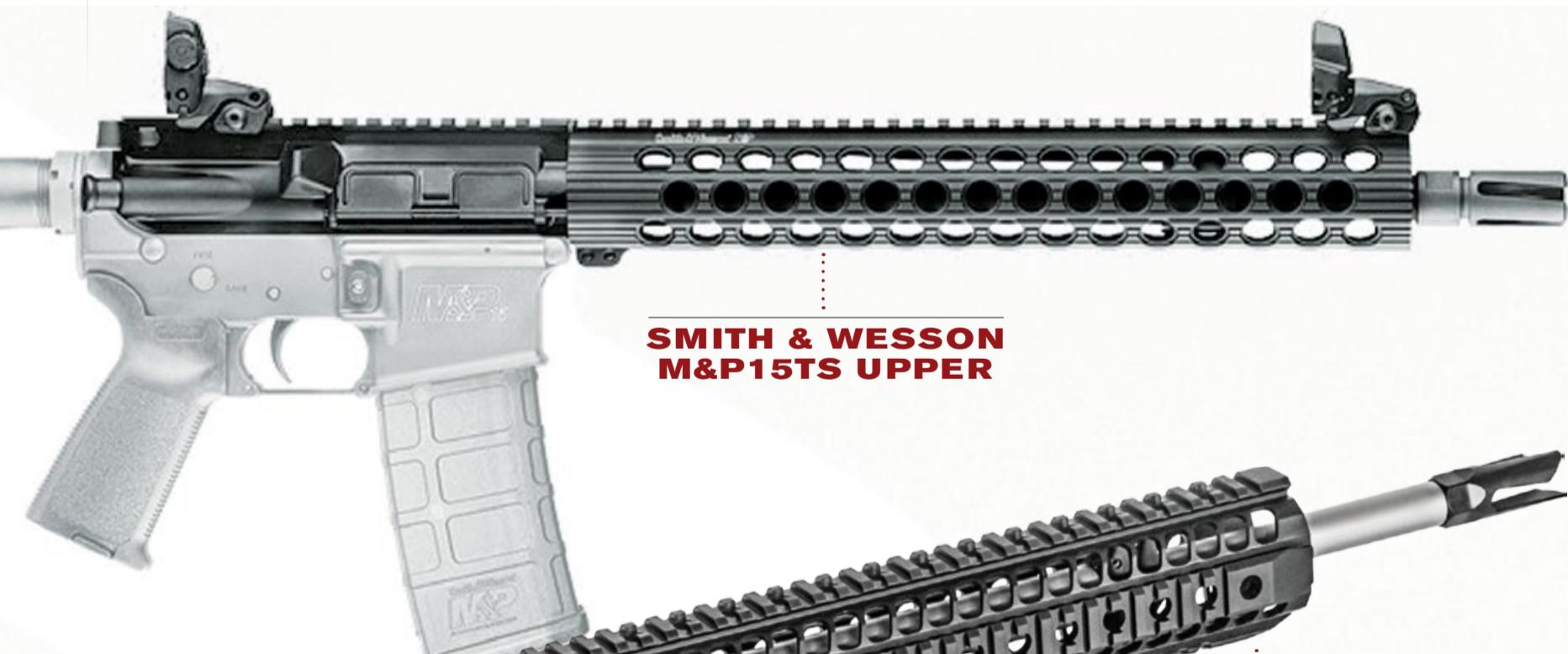
**PRECISION REFLEX  
18-INCH MARK 12 MOD 0 SPR GEN II**



**PRIMARY WEAPONS SYSTEMS MK214**



**SIG M400 UPPER**



**SMITH & WESSON  
M&P15TS UPPER**



**SEEKINS  
PRECISION  
COMBAT  
BILLET**



## PRECISION REFLEX 18-INCH MARK 12 MOD 0 SPR GEN II

The Mark 12 Mod 0 SPR Gen II upper from Precision Reflex Inc. (PRI) features a Douglas 416 stainless steel, 18-inch barrel chambered in 5.56mm NATO with a 1-in-7-inch twist rate. The handguard is made of carbon fiber with a full-length top rail. A PRI gas block/flip-up front sight and rear sight are included with the kit, which comes in a Flat Dark Earth finish. (precisionreflex.com; 419-629-2603)

## PRIMARY WEAPONS SYSTEMS MK214 UPPER

The MK214 is designed to be the shortest non-NFA upper in .308 Winchester/7.62mm NATO. Using PWS' proprietary long-stroke piston system, the MK214 also features a 14.5-inch, chrome-moly barrel with a 1-in-10-inch twist rate. The barrel is turned with a heavy-contour profile to increase accuracy. (primaryweapons.com; 208-344-5217)

## ROCK RIVER ARMS LIGHTWEIGHT XL

The Lightweight XL upper in 5.56mm features RRA's XL-length, carbon-fiber, free-floating handguard and a lightweight, 16-inch barrel made of chrome-moly steel. The barrel is rifled with a 1-in-9-inch twist and is capped at the muzzle with an A2-style flash suppressor. (rockriverarms.com; 309-792-5780)

## SAFETY HARBOR SHTF 50 SINGLE SHOT UPPER CONVERSION

Need more AR power? The SHTF 50 Single Shot Upper Conversion mates with an AR lower receiver to create a bolt-action, single-shot rifle chambered in .50 BMG. The barrel is constructed from 4140 chrome-moly steel and features a 1-in-15-inch twist. The upper is available in three barrel lengths: 18, 22 and 29 inches. All barrels are equipped with an eight-port muzzle brake to tame the .50 BMG's recoil. (safetyharborfirearms.com; 727-726-2500)

## SEEKINS PRECISION COMBAT BILLET

Seekins Precision machines this upper receiver from a solid billet of 7075-T6 aluminum. The match-grade, stainless steel barrels are available in either .223 Wylde or 300 BLK. These uppers run on the direct impingement system and use M4 feed ramps, and the barrels are capped with Seekins' flash suppressors. The complete upper is compatible with mil-spec lower receivers. (seekinsprecision.com; 208-743-3400)

## SIG SAUER M400 UPPER

Sig Sauer's M400 upper is available in 5.56mm or 300 BLK. The 16-inch barrel is surrounded by a Magpul MOE handguard, and the barrel extension has an extractor support pin for improved safety in the event of an obstructed bore or overpressured ammunition. It comes with an "F"-marked front sight and flip-up locking rear sight. (sigsauer.com; 603-610-3000)

## SMITH & WESSON M&P15TS UPPER

The 5.56mm M&P15TS upper receiver assembly features a free-floating barrel with a 1-in-7-inch twist rate and a permanently attached Smith Vortex flash suppressor that brings the 14.5-inch barrel's overall length up to 16 inches. The forend is a 13-inch Troy TRX Extreme Handguard. The upper also comes with Magpul MBUS flip-up sights that are made of impact-resistant polymer. An ambidextrous button quickly deploys the sights. (smith-wesson.com; 800-331-0852)



**STAG ARMS  
MODEL 3TH-M  
UPPER**



**VOODOO  
INNOVATIONS  
ULTRA LITE**



**X PRODUCTS  
CAN CANNON**



**X PRODUCTS  
X-15 BILLET SCU**



**YANKEE HILL  
MACHINE  
KR7 SERIES**

## STAG ARMS MODEL 3TH-M UPPER

Designed with input from law enforcement agencies, Stag Arms chambered its Model 3TH-M upper in 5.56mm NATO and outfitted it with features those agencies prefer. Featuring a 16-inch, 4140 steel barrel with a government profile and 1-in-9-inch button rifling, the 3TH-M is also equipped with a 13.5-inch, free-floated Diamondhead VRS-T handguard and Diamondhead's aluminum, low-profile, flip-up sights. (stagarms.com; 860-229-9994)

## VOODOO INNOVATIONS ULTRA LITE

This 5.56mm, forged-aluminum, flattop upper features an Ultra Lite 16.5-inch, 4150 chrome-moly-vanadium steel barrel with a 1-in-7-inch twist rate and uses the traditional direct impingement gas system with a rifle-length gas tube. A free-floating Samson Evolution handguard and VDI Jet Comp muzzle device are also included. (813-867-4242; voodooinnovations.com)

## YANKEE HILL MACHINE KR7 SERIES

This YHM upper comes chambered in either 5.56mm, 6.8 SPC or .300 BLK, and comes standard with a Phantom 5C2 flash suppressor, a KR7 Mid-Length KeyMod handguard and a low-profile gas block. The receiver and handguard offer an uninterrupted rail. The 16-inch barrel is made of 4140 steel. (yhm.net; 877-892-6533)

## X PRODUCTS CAN CANNON

The Can Cannon has nothing to do with defense or tactical engagements—it is just pure fun. The complete upper uses M200 mil-spec blanks to propel a soda can a distance of up to 105 yards. The upper uses a proprietary ported barrel and pressure tube to launch heavy, thin-walled objects without burning a hole in them or directing hot gas directly into them. (xproducts.com; 928-862-2107)

## X PRODUCTS X-15 BILLET SCU

The X-15 Billet SCU (Side Charging Upper) is billet-crafted and designed with a non-reciprocating side charging handle. Engineered to work with .223, 300 BLK and 9mm calibers, and all standard and non-standard AR lowers, the X-15 Billet SCU uses an elevated charging handle that allows proper operation of the bolt-hold-open when manually operated. (xproducts.com; 928-862-2107)

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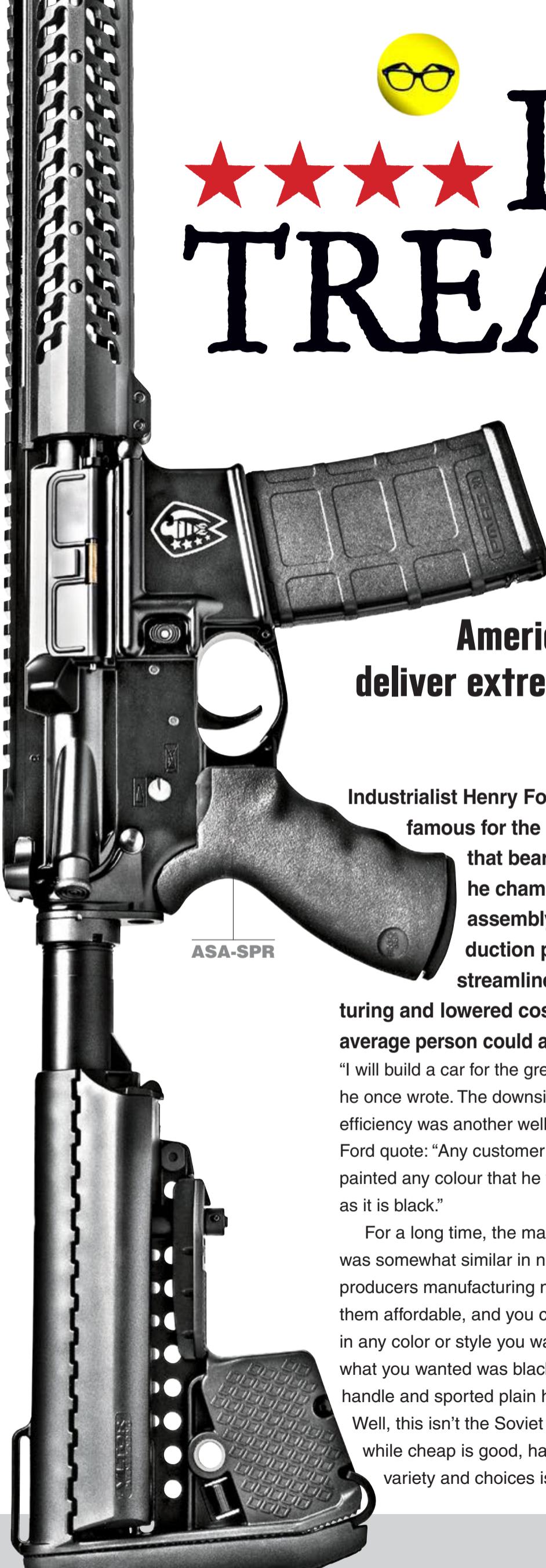
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# ★★★ DON'T TREAD ON ME

**American Spirit Arms' battle-ready ARs deliver extreme precision in any environment!**

**BY JORGE AMSELLE**

Industrialist Henry Ford is not just famous for the car company that bears his name; he championed the assembly-line production process, he streamlined manufacturing and lowered costs so that the average person could afford a car.

"I will build a car for the great multitude," he once wrote. The downside of this hyper efficiency was another well-known Henry Ford quote: "Any customer can have a car painted any colour that he wants so long as it is black."

For a long time, the market for ARs was somewhat similar in nature. More producers manufacturing more ARs made them affordable, and you could have them in any color or style you wanted so long as what you wanted was black, had a carry handle and sported plain handguards.

Well, this isn't the Soviet Union, and while cheap is good, having lots of variety and choices is always better.

Today, we are inundated with a plethora of out-of-the-box thinking and design innovations in the AR market. Everything from offbeat calibers, to piston operation, to quick-change barrel systems are sprouting like weeds after a rainstorm. To purists, these new developments don't even count as ARs. To the rest of us, however, they provide endless excuses to buy another AR.

One of these new and innovative companies is American Spirit Arms out of Scottsdale, Arizona. This company manufactures plenty of standard, high-quality parts and accessories for your AR as well as complete rifles, and is best known for its non-reciprocating, side-charging handle designs. ASA rifles and carbines are available in multiple calibers, from the ubiquitous 5.56mm to the increasingly popular .308 Win and 9mm. These rifles, carbines and pistols all come with a lifetime warranty, and select models offer an accuracy guarantee as well, which is something you don't often see.

Traditionalists needn't despair since ASA also offers customers the option of the same high-quality AR rifles, carbines

and pistols with a standard forward assist and T-shaped charging handle. Homebuilders also have the option of purchasing ASA's mostly complete lower receiver, which only requires a minimal amount of milling to complete.

## SIDE CHARGER

It may seem disconcerting at first when you pick up an ASA rifle and there is no T-shaped charging handle at the rear of the receiver. Instead you get a folding charging handle located on the left side of the upper receiver. This design offers a significant advantage over the traditional charging handle placement. You don't have to bring your support hand all the way to your face to operate the charging handle, and you don't get a face full of charging handle when you do operate it.

The side charging handle allows the operator to maintain greater control of the weapon while loading or clearing it without having to break cheekweld or remove the rifle from the shoulder. It is also a great advantage when using low-mounted optics, which can interfere with standard charging handle operation. ASA does sell the side charging handle upper receiver as a stand-alone upgrade that the operator can use to retrofit on an existing AR or for a custom build. It will function flawlessly with all standard AR parts (no need for a special bolt carrier group or gas system). However, operators will need to make a small alteration to the bolt carrier by cutting a notch into the front-left side. ASA provides carriers with this change already completed or will alter a customer's carrier. The carrier can still be used in a standard AR.

ASA's upper receivers are manufactured using 7075-T6 billet aluminum and hard coat anodized. Other than the side-charging feature, everything else remains standard, including the M4 feed ramps, the Picatinny rail flattop and the dust-cover assembly. It does, however, dispense with the forward assist commonly found on ARs, but many find that function unnecessary.

Full-length flattop receiver AR carbines are extremely popular, and with good

reason. They allow the operator maximum versatility for adding optics, lasers and night-vision devices on top of the rifle with plenty of room for proper placement, reach and eye relief. The ASA-M4CS1 chambered in 5.56mm fits this bill nicely and comes standard with a host of tactical features users usually end up adding anyway. Buying the complete package is a lot cheaper than buying the components and putting it together yourself—believe me, I've tried.

This carbine can be had in either a standard charging handle configuration or with ASA's side charging handle receiver. It features a threaded, black nitride-coated, 16-inch barrel with a 1-in-7-inch twist rate. This finish is extremely hard, resistant to corrosion and has a natural lubricity. Thanks to the nitride finish, as well as tight tolerances and the use of high-quality production, ASA can offer a 1-MOA guarantee with this carbine, assuming you use match ammo and do your part.

The M4CS1 is available with optional flip-up sights and is available in matte black or Flat Dark Earth colors. The 10-inch Samson Evo quad rail also allows the barrel to remain free-floating. You also get a carbine-length gas system, an extended triggerguard for easier use with gloves, the Ergo grip and a six-position, collapsible Magpul MOE buttstock. All of the controls are standard for right-handed use except for the side charging handle.

## MORE ARs

With a growing public interest in ARs for hunting, bull barrels are also increasing in popularity thanks

to their improved accuracy. The ASA-16/BBA3 chambered in 5.56mm is a great example of this, and it being a carbine helps reduce some of the added weight from the heavy barrel. While it is available as a standard AR or with ASA's side charger, this is a rifle that begs for a good optic, and the side charger will really shine as a preferred option.

The 16-inch barrel features a 1-in-8-inch twist rate, which nicely stabilizes both heavier hunting loads and lighter varmint

standard but the JP Compensator is also an option.

This carbine comes with ASA's 1/2-MOA guarantee, thanks in part to the excellent single-stage, 4-pound, target trigger. It is ideal for small varmint targets.

Finally, ASA offers the ASA-SPR, which sports an 18-inch, heavy-profile, 416R stainless steel, match-grade barrel with a mid-length gas system, a 1-in-8-inch





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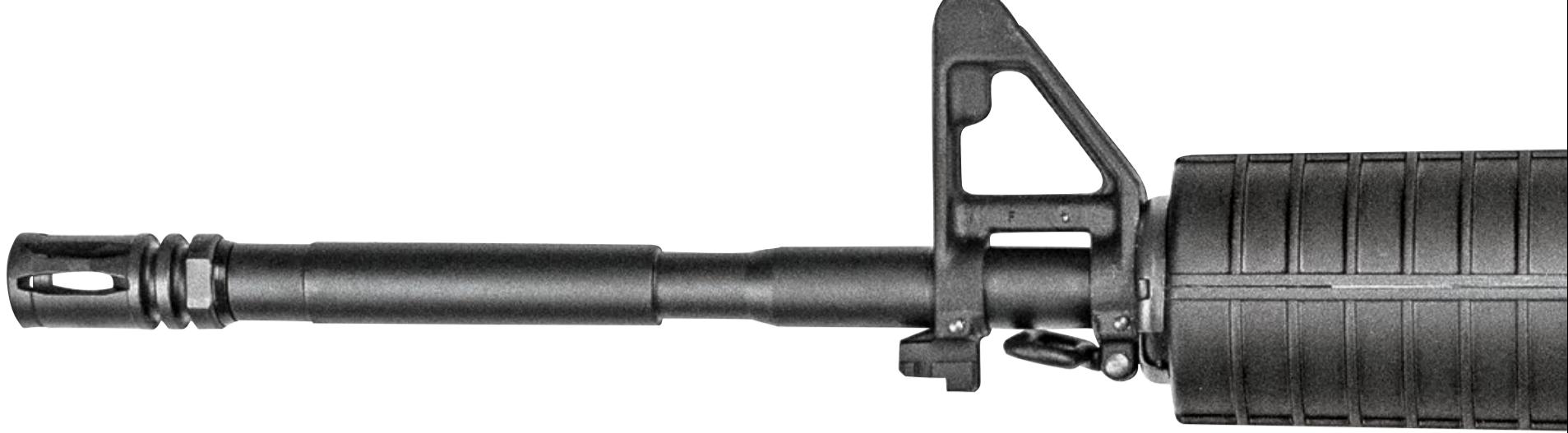
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# DEL-TON EXTREME DUTY 316

Combining a classic  
5.56mm design with  
cutting-edge performance!



BY RICHARD L. JOHNSON

## When you name a rifle “Extreme Duty,” you are setting the bar pretty high.

The name suggests a robust rifle that can take plenty of hard knocks yet keep on running in arduous conditions. When the team at Del-Ton Inc. designed the Extreme Duty 316, it appears they were intent on building just such a resilient rifle.

I had the chance to spend a few weeks with one of these rifles in the Florida sand, heat and humidity. While

I did not go out of my way to abuse the rifle, it was certainly exposed to all of the typical environmental hazards that a cop might encounter in the area. It was exposed to salt air, dropped in the sand, rained on and ran in the hot afternoon sun. So, how did it fare?

### TO THE EXTREME

Before I jump into how the gun performed, it might be best to explain a little more about the gun so the evaluation has some additional context. The

Extreme Duty 316 is a semi-automatic, AR-15 rifle. In many ways, it will be familiar to anyone who has experience with the AR-15/M4 platform.

For this build, Del-Ton uses an upper and lower that are forged of 7075-T6 aluminum and hardcoat anodized. It is chambered for the 5.56mm NATO cartridge and uses M4-style feed ramps.

On this gun, Del-Ton uses a 16-inch, hammer-forged barrel with a 1-in-7-inch twist. The fast twist rate helps ensure the rifle will stabilize heavier bullets. The barrel bore is chrome lined. Del-Ton threaded the barrel and added an A2-style flash suppressor. Although there are many aftermarket options for muzzle devices, I've found the A2 works reasonably well and doesn't add a huge number to the bottom line.

The front sight is located in an A2-type tower and adjusts like any other standard AR front sight. The rear sight is a folding Samson Manufacturing sight mounted on the Picatinny rail atop the re-

### DEL-TON EXTREME DUTY 316

#### Specifications

#### Performance

**Caliber:** 5.56mm NATO

**Barrel:** 16 inches

**OA Length:** 32.25-35.58 inches

**Weight:** 6.4 pounds (empty)

**Stock:** Collapsible

**Sights:** A2 front, Samson flip-up rear

**Finish:** Matte black

**Capacity:** 30+1

**MSRP:** \$1,100

#### Load

Load	Velocity	Accuracy
Gorilla Ammunition 69 OTM	2,628	2.68
Hornady 55 TAP	2,896	2.75
HPR Ammunition 60 V-MAX	2,498	2.87

*Bullet weight measured in grains,  
velocity in fps by chronograph and  
accuracy in inches for best five-shot  
groups at 100 yards.*



Del-Ton's M4-style Extreme Duty 316 in 5.56mm NATO lives up to its name with tank-tough parts built to handle rough use.

ceiver. The sight folds flat yet quickly flips up into place when it is used as a backup sight. It also performs very well as a primary rear sight with fully adjustable dual apertures. For my range testing, I used the stock iron sights exclusively.

Del-Ton built the Extreme Duty 316 to be relatively light. Unloaded, the gun weighs 6.4 pounds. Compared to a lot of AR-15 rifles that weigh 7-plus pounds, this gun feels like a featherweight. For a patrol officer who is on a perimeter position for a long period of time, shaving ounces can make a huge difference in comfort.

One of the ways that Del-Ton helps keep the rifle light is by using traditional handguards instead of a quad-rail handguard. The downside is that this limits how accessories can be added to the gun. Other than a sling, the only rifle accessory I consider very important is a white light. Fortunately, Elzetta offers a made-in-the-USA solution with the ZFH1500. This polymer mount allows you to attach a tactical light to the rifle by lock-

ing it onto the A2 sight base. It sells for less than \$30 and is worth every penny.

User manuals are included with every new gun purchased, but far too many are poorly written and offer little benefit to the owner. However, the Del-Ton manual included with the Extreme Duty 316 is a solid reference on the company's AR-15 rifles. It has plenty of clear diagrams and is written in a way that is easy to understand for even the beginning shooter. Many manufacturers could learn a lot about the right way to write a manual by studying the Del-Ton example.

## AT THE RANGE

Even though the AR-15 is generally considered debugged technology, the real proof of a gun is on the range. It has been my experience that Del-Ton rifles run well and deliver

Factory iron sights get you in the fight right out of the box, while the Picatinny rail allows you to add glass for more precise shots.





## FIVE MORE DEL-TON DEFENDERS

### DT SPORT - OPTIC READY

It's tough to beat the value of the DT Sport in its Optic Ready trim. As it ships, the gun has a 16-inch barrel with a 1-in-9-inch twist, and it is fitted with a birdcage-style flash suppressor. Del-Ton equips this rifle with an M4-type buttstock and round handguards with a heat shield. A commercial-sized buffer tube is also used. As the name suggests, the Optic Ready rifle has a low-profile gas block so there is no front sight tower to obstruct the view through a scope or red-dot sight. The upper receiver has a Picatinny rail that allows a shooter to quickly add glass for precision shooting. Both the upper and lower receiver are forged from 7075-T6 aluminum that have been hardcoat black anodized for long-term durability.

#### SPECIFICATIONS

**Caliber:** 5.56mm • **Barrel:** 16 inches • **Stock:** Collapsible  
**OA Length:** 32.62-36.37 inches • **Weight:** 5.8 pounds (empty)  
**Sights:** None • **Action:** Direct impingement semi-auto  
**Finish:** Matte black • **Capacity:** 30+1 • **MSRP:** \$707



### ALPHA 220H

With a more traditional look, the Alpha 220H rifle is equipped with an A2-style buttstock, carry handle and a 20-inch barrel. The chrome-moly barrel has a heavy profile with a 1-in-9-inch twist. It is threaded and capped with an A2-type muzzle device. The upper receiver is forged 7075-T6 aluminum and features an integral carry handle. Adjustable iron sights are standard on the rifle. The Alpha 220H has a phosphated bolt carrier assembly with a chrome-lined interior and carrier key. The gas key is staked. Carpenter 158 steel is used to make the rifle bolt, and it is heat-treated. Del-Ton includes a single 30-round magazine with the rifle.

#### SPECIFICATIONS

**Caliber:** 5.56mm • **Barrel:** 20 inches • **OA Length:** 39.5 inches  
**Weight:** 8.2 pounds (empty) • **Stock:** A2 • **Sights:** Iron  
**Action:** Direct impingement semi-auto  
**Finish:** Matte black • **Capacity:** 30+1 • **MSRP:** \$793



### EVOLUTION

The Evolution is equipped with everything a shooter would immediately need for home defense or law enforcement duties. At its core, the Evolution is a semi-automatic AR-15 chambered in 5.56mm. It has a lightweight 16-inch barrel and forged uppers and lowers. On this rifle, Del-Ton uses a Samson Evolution free-floated handguard with partial-length Picatinny rails in the 3, 6 and 9 o'clock positions for the addition of accessories such as a white light. The top of the handguard has a full-length Picatinny rail. A set of folding Samson sights is also included. A Magpul CTR serves as the rifle's buttstock. Magpul also provides the MOE pistol grip.

#### SPECIFICATIONS

**Caliber:** 5.56mm • **Barrel:** 16 inches • **OA Length:** 32.37-35.62 inches  
**Weight:** 6.8 pounds (empty) • **Stock:** Magpul CTR  
**Sights:** Sampson flip-up • **Action:** Direct impingement semi-auto  
**Finish:** Matte black • **Capacity:** 30+1 • **MSRP:** \$1,299



### ALPHA 320G

Many people prefer a fixed stock for the stability it provides, and Del-Ton offers several options for these customers. One good choice to consider is the Alpha 320G. This rifle is fitted with an A2-style stock and a government-profile, 20-inch barrel with a standard-length gas system. The barrel is threaded and comes with a birdcage for reducing flash signature. It is chambered in 5.56mm and has M4-type feed ramps. Del-Ton uses a flattop upper that can be outfitted with the rear sight or optic of the shooter's choice. The upper is forged from 7075-T6 aluminum and hardcoat anodized. Likewise, the lower receiver is also forged and anodized.

#### SPECIFICATIONS

**Caliber:** 5.56mm • **Barrel:** 20 inches • **OA Length:** 39.5 inches  
**Weight:** 7.2 pounds (empty) • **Stock:** Fixed  
**Sights:** A2 front • **Action:** Direct impingement semi-auto  
**Finish:** Matte black • **Capacity:** 30+1 • **MSRP:** \$788



### SIERRA 316H

This optic-ready rifle sports a 16-inch, chrome-moly barrel and a mid-length gas system. The heavy-profile barrel is threaded with a 1-in-9-inch twist and has an A2-style flash suppressor attached. The mid-length handguards have a single heat shield to protect the shooter from the heat of a fired barrel. Equipped with a six-position adjustable stock, the length of pull can be adjusted to fit the individual shooter. The flattop receiver allows for the addition of nearly any kind of optic.

#### SPECIFICATIONS

**Caliber:** 5.56mm • **Barrel:** 16 inches • **OA Length:** 32.62-36.37 inches  
**Weight:** 7 pounds (empty) • **Stock:** Collapsible  
**Sights:** A2-style front • **Action:** Direct impingement semi-auto  
**Finish:** Matte black • **Capacity:** 30+1 • **MSRP:** \$788



respectable accuracy. The Extreme Duty 316 was very much in keeping with my experiences.

Out of the box, the rifle was on paper at 100 yards. I ran three different loads through the rifle for testing: a 69-grain match load from Gorilla Ammunition, the 55-grain Hornady TAP load and an HPR Ammunition load using a 60-grain V-MAX bullet. All of the rounds were reasonably accurate with the iron sights, grouping 4 inches or less. The best groups were all less than 3 inches.

While I did not drag the gun behind my boat through some swamp, it was dropped in the sand, bounced around the inside of my vehicle on some back roads and sucked up lots of salt air. The gun did not appear to notice any of it. Every round fed and fired, as I would expect. Also, after several weeks, I did not see any sign of corrosion or other problems.

## FINAL SHOTS

At the moment, the black rifle market is relatively quiet. Recent panic buying is just a memory and shooters can find any number of AR-15 rifles on the dealers' shelves right now. For

**“Compared to a lot of AR-15 rifles that weigh 7-plus pounds, this gun feels like a featherweight.”**

a shooter, you are not likely to find a better time to buy an AR-15 than today.

My sample Extreme Duty 316 ran great and I am happy to recommend it if its features meet your needs. Something to keep in mind is that Del-Ton has been around for years, uses all U.S.-sourced parts and backs its guns with a lifetime warranty. A lot of small shop AR builders popped up during the buying craze, but will they be here in a few years should your rifle ever need service? Del-Ton will. For more information, visit [del-ton.com](http://del-ton.com) or call 910-645-2172.

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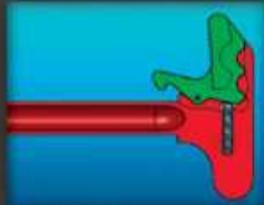
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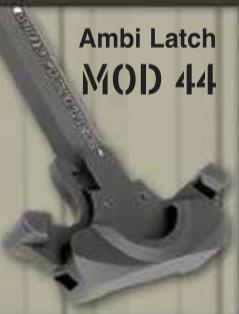
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# SUPPRESSORS

BY ROBERT A. SADOWSKI



Photo courtesy Wilson Combat

**When a round is fired through a suppressor,** the gases escaping from the muzzle are stifled inside the suppressor and a series of baffle chambers. "Cans" designed specifically for ARs offer different benefits, from a reduction in noise signature and less muzzle flash to less felt recoil as well as an increase in bullet velocity. Here are some high-quality suppressors that will help maximize your performance.



**DESERT TECH DTSS**



**ADVANCED  
ARMAMENT CORP.  
SR5**



**DEAD AIR  
ARMAMENT  
7.62 SANDMAN-L**



**DELTA P DESIGN  
BREVIS II**



**GEMTECH  
GMT-300BLK**

## **ADVANCED ARMAMENT CORP. SR5**

The SR5 features a fast-attach system that enables users to securely install or remove the suppressor in less than three seconds on 5.56mm weapons, plus it minimizes point-of-impact shifts when attached and removed. Durable and corrosion resistant, the SR5 suppressor is made of fully welded Inconel 718. The weight is 17.5 ounces with an overall length of 6.7 inches and an outside diameter of 1.5 inches.

(advanced-armament.com; 770-925-9988)

## **DEAD AIR ARMAMENT 7.62 SANDMAN-L**

Designed for .30-caliber weapons, the 7.62 Sandman-L (the "L" stands for "Long") offers a sound reduction of 31 decibels when firing standard 7.62mm NATO ammo. The QD system is quick to attach using just one hand. The Sandman-L suppressor's baffles form a solid welded core with a detachable front cap featuring an integrated flash suppressor.

(deadairsilencers.com; 877-892-7544)

## **DELTA P DESIGN BREVIS II**

The stubby 5.56mm Brevis II suppressor offers reduced weight, sound and visual signature in a very short can that has a 3.7-inch overall length. This silencer is constructed of a single piece of proprietary hardened Inconel alloy and weighs 12.5 ounces. The lifespan is similar to that of the barrel, and the compact Brevis II is also rated for select-fire use.

(deltapdesign.com; 503-487-0007)

## **DESERT TECH DTSS**

Designed to enhance accuracy and minimize impact shifts between suppressed and unsuppressed fire, the DTSS (Desert Tactical Sound Suppressor) offers consistent accuracy improvements of nearly 0.25 MOA when installed. The DTSS has a vertical impact shift of less than 2 MOA. Constructed of titanium and treated with a matte black Cerakote finish, the .30-caliber model weighs 1 pound and has an overall length of 7.8 inches. (deserttech.com; 801-975-7272)

## **GEMTECH DAGGER**

The Dagger is an all Titanium suppressor designed for semi-auto 18-inch 300WM precision rifles. It can be used on all lesser calibers and its extreme strength lends itself to use on 12-inch .308 SBRs. The Dagger offers a 27-decibel sound reduction in a package that is 8.8 inches in length, 1.5 inches in diameter and weighs 15.3 ounces. (gemtech.com; 208-939-7222)

# SUPPRESSORS

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## SIG SAUER SRD556-QD

The SRD556-QD, designed for use with 5.56mm NATO weapons, is an Inconel 718 silencer using a fast-attach muzzle device to mount the silencer to the rifle. The 5.56mm fast-attach muzzle device system is available with 1/2x28 threads. The rear mount has wrench flats to torque the silencer to the barrel. There is a secondary retention latch that is depressed to remove the silencer from the fast-attach mount. The SRD556-QD comes with one 1/2x 28 Taper-Lok muzzle brake. (sig-sauer.com; 866-345-6744)

## SUREFIRE SOCOM556-RC FAST-ATTACH

The 5.56mm SOCOM556-RC Fast-Attach suppressor is used by U.S. Special Operations Command for M4 and MK16 carbines. The unit only adds about 4 inches to the weapon's overall length, and at only 17 ounces, it is lightweight. The Fast-Attach system produces minimal, consistent point-of-impact shifts. (surefire.com; 800-828-8809)

## THUNDER BEAST 223P-2

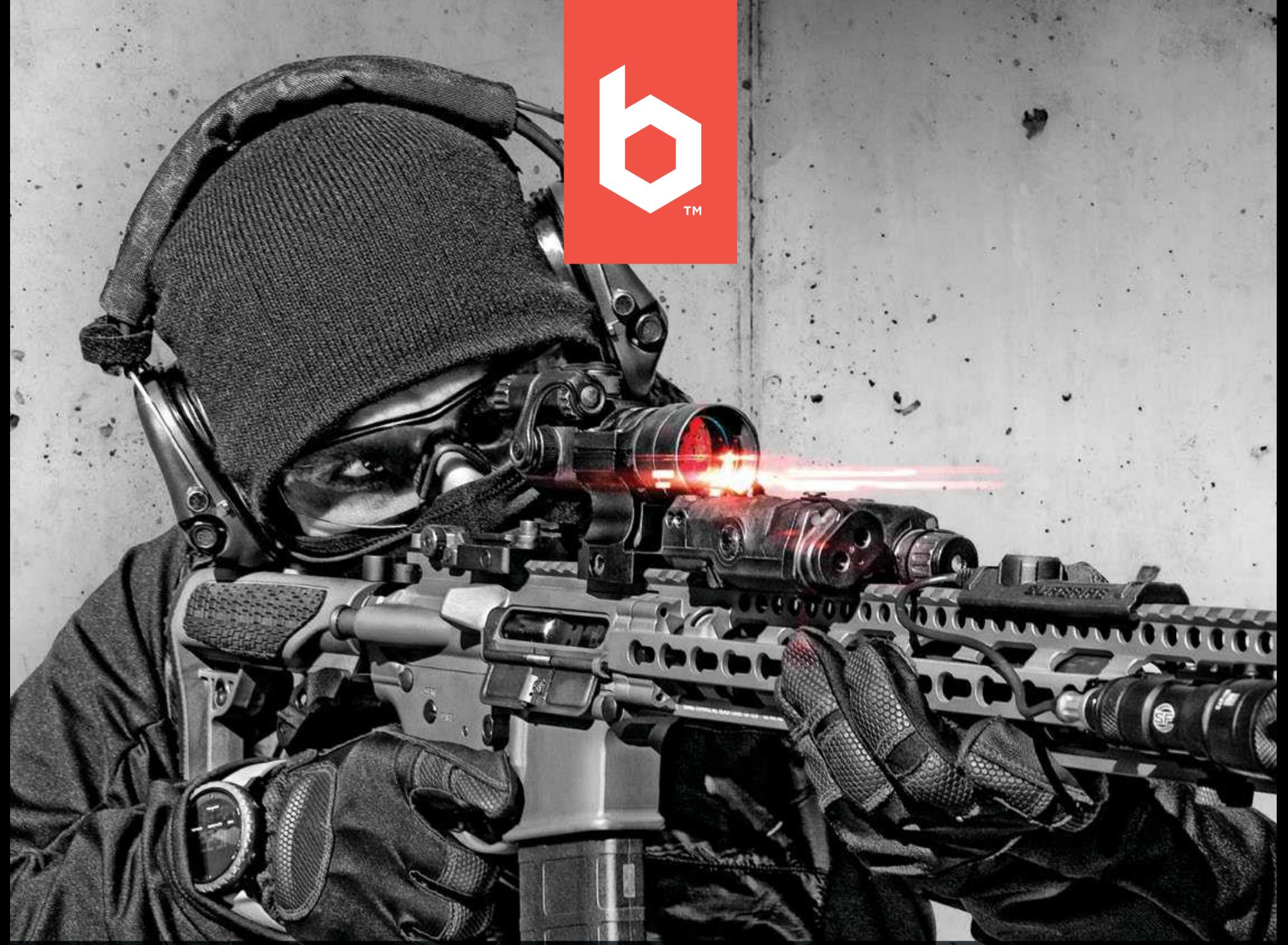
The 223P-2 from Thunder Beast Arms Corp. (TBAC) is an efficient .223-caliber suppressor that offers good sound suppression in a lightweight package. At only 14.4 ounces, the 223P-2 is strong and durable thanks to its titanium and stainless steel construction. The 223P-2 is rated for semi-autos. MSRP: \$925. (thunderbeastarms.com; 307-287-2052)

## WILSON COMBAT WHISPER

Designed to deliver silent force, the Whisper suppressor from Wilson Combat features a monocore baffle design and is completely machined from titanium. The result is a lightweight and quick-cooling suppressor. The dimensions of the Whisper are also extremely compact, adding only 4.5 inches to an AR's overall length. The suppressor is designed to not affect barrel harmonics, shift zero or change the point of impact. (wilsoncombat.com; 800-955-4856)

## YANKEE HILL MACHINE WRAITH XL

Have a pistol-caliber AR that needs suppression? The Wraith XL is designed to work with host carbines and submachine guns (SMGs) up to .45 ACP in fully automatic. Constructed of aluminum and stainless steel using a patented baffle design, the Wraith XL weighs 11 ounces and measures 8.5 inches in length. (yhm.net; 877-892-6533)



ballistic

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# PRIMARY WEAPONS PROTECTOR

**The MK112 in 300 Blackout delivers decisive downrange power!**

BY DAVID BAHDE

**Primary Weapons Systems builds some of the most reliable AR rifles you can buy in my opinion.**

Using a modified gas piston system, the company's rifles are softer shooting, cooler to run and simpler to maintain. Having previously tested PWS' rifles in both 5.56mm and 7.62mm, I thought it was time for 300 BLK. The 300 BLK round is low pressure by comparison, making gas tappet piston guns problematic. Pistol-length direct impingement versions are the norm and work great with short barrels, but I wanted something in the middle and the PWS MK112 with a 12.75-inch barrel seemed just about perfect.

After years of using and testing ARs, a 12.5- to 13-inch barrel has proven the most versatile. While short enough for entry work, this barrel length retains ballistic efficiency. While shorter barrels are common, it limits the range in a caliber well suited to 300-meter distances. My hunch was that a 13-inch barrel would keep it handy with little velocity loss. I ordered a PWS MK112 to mate to my registered PWS MK1 lower and see if my theory was correct.

## HARD CHARGER

My registered MK1 lower uses a Geissele Super Dynamic Combat trigger and an ambidextrous, 60-degree safety from Battle Arms Development. The grip is from Bravo Company and the stock is from Vltor. The addition of Law Tactical's Gen

3 folding stock makes for a truly compact rifle; PWS bolt carriers just need a different extension and Law Tactical has them. Installation is simple, allowing this rifle to fit my Eberelestock packs along with several other covert carry systems.

The upper uses a forged receiver and features a slim, KeyMod-equipped rail. A QPQ-coated, 12.75-inch barrel with a profile designed to lose weight, not accuracy, is installed. Chambered in 300 BLK and featuring a 1-in-8-inch twist, it is button rifled using M4 cuts for proper feeding. Isonite coating is becoming the standard for any hard-use AR. Set up for use outside the range, a Triad flash suppressor was also installed.

PWS bolt carriers and bolts are made from tool steel, which exceeds military



specifications, and are then nickel Teflon coated for reliability and ease of maintenance. Designed specifically to work with PWS rifles, these units are some of the most advanced on the market and as strong as can be made.

Trijicon's VCOG 1-6x24-power scope has proven to be a favorite of mine when simple and rugged reliability is needed. Its segmented circle reticle configured for the 300 BLK makes it about perfect for any distance. Trijicon's RMR was added at the 1 o'clock position. The VCOG performs well or better than any scope up close, but my personal preference remains offset irons and/or an MRDS when close-quarters distances are in order.

## RANGE REPORT

Early testing revolved around my existing inventory of ammunition along with Barnes' new 120-grain TAC-X bullet. While the 110 grain has been popular, the 120 grain should prove a better choice if you are going to longer distances. Terminal ballistics on this bullet have become almost legendary, and this new version looks to be about perfect for my needs.

Accuracy with the PWS MK112 was excellent with the Barnes load, producing a 0.75-inch group at 100 yards. Fired from prone using my pack as a rest, this is about as accurate as it gets for me. Everything else tested under 1.5 inches. Shooting off-hand at 25 yards, the 120-grain Barnes stayed inside 2 inches, making it more than precise enough for the real world. Compared to 16-inch barrels, the measured velocity proved to be almost identical, with the largest difference being less than 25 feet per second (fps). My hunch was confirmed.

# KOMPACT ENTRY STOCK

**Safety Harbor's ultra-compact KES delivers PDW-style power for your AR!**

**By Michael O. Humphries**

Developed around the concept of adapting the popular AR platform to a PDW-sized package, the Kompact Entry Stock (KES) from Safety Harbor delivers. The collapsible stock is designed to work on all standard-spec AR-15/M16 lowers and is entirely end-user installable and requires no gunsmithing. The stock allows for easy sling mounting on either side of the gun and does not interfere with the firearm's operation when collapsed. The stock kit comes complete with the stock assembly, buffer, carrier and spring and is priced at an MSRP of \$325. For more information, visit [safetyharborfirearms.com](http://safetyharborfirearms.com) or call 727-726-2500.



Testing at this point was confined to unsuppressed fire, and the PWS performed incredibly well. Ammunition ranged from a 147-grain practice load to a 125-grain match, along with some of my hand-loaded practice rounds using once-fired and converted .223 brass and short projectiles. With a Sprinco Blue extended-power buffer spring, it ran it all but failed to lock open on the handloads on occasion. Switching to the standard Sprinco White spring eliminated that with no further malfunctions. Primary Weapon Systems' H2 buffer was also used during. Currently, the company's enhanced buffer tube will not work with the Law Tactical folder, so it was replaced with a mil-spec tube.

Moving out to longer ranges is where

the VCOG really shines. After zeroing at 100 yards, 6-inch steel was engaged at 200, 300 and 400 meters. Accounting for wind, it was dead on and yielded consistent hits on steel. This reticle includes aiming points for 220-grain subsonic that will be tested a bit down the road, but for now it has proven to be accurate with 110- to 125-grain bullets with little change in holds out to 350 meters.

This rifle will see some more testing in the next few months, but preliminary results proved to be excellent. The MK112 is one of the softest shooting 300 BLK rifles I've used to date. Accuracy was excellent and reliability was superb, keeping it in line with every other PWS rifle I've tested so far.

Primary Weapons Systems is well known for thinking outside the box. The entire company is built around the concept of doing what works, and this is reflected in most everything it makes. Built with reliability, function and purpose in mind, PWS rifles remain simple, easy to maintain and reliable. The company brings that process to everything it makes, including its Glock slides, precision rifles and components. In a sea of choices for an AR rifle, PWS stands out as one of the most reliable and useful piston-driven rifles you can buy. For more information, visit [primaryweapons.com](http://primaryweapons.com) or call 208-344-5217.

**BG**

## PRIMARY WEAPONS SYSTEMS MK112 300 BLK

### Specifications

<b>Caliber:</b>	300 BLK
<b>Barrel:</b>	12.75 inches
<b>OA Length:</b>	29.5 inches
<b>Weight:</b>	6.37 pounds (empty)
<b>Sights:</b>	Magpul MBUS
<b>Stocks:</b>	Magpul MOE
<b>Action:</b>	Piston-driven semi-auto
<b>Finish:</b>	Matte black
<b>Capacity:</b>	30+1
<b>MSRP:</b>	\$1,950

### Performance

Load	Velocity	Accuracy
Barnes Vortex 120 TAC-XP	2,100	0.75
PNW 125 Match	2,200	1.00
PNW 147 Practice	1,900	1.60
Remington 125 OTM	2,250	0.80

*Bullet weight measured in grains, velocity in fps by chronograph and accuracy in inches for five 5-shot groups at 100 yards.*

# GOING TIE



BY DAVID BAHDE

## Noreen's sharpshooting BN308 delivers

**Noreen Firearms is well known for producing high-quality precision rifles in some of the heaviest calibers.**

The company's ULR (Ultra Long Range) rifles are chambered in .50 BMG, .416 Barrett, .408 Chey Tac and .338 Lapua. While

the biggest calibers are in bolt-action rifles, the company's Bad News in .338 Lapua is one of the first reliable semi-automatic rifles in this caliber. After testing one of the first of these

models, I found it reliable and incredibly accurate. Piston driven and equipped with a muzzle brake, it was one of the softest shooting .338 Lapua rifles ever tested. Noreen's next design was the BN36, the same reliable platform chambered in .30-06. Although transitioning to a direct-impingement gas system, it remained accurate and pleasant to shoot. The latest

in the stable is the BN308, the same basic rifle chambered in the prolific .308 Win.

Noreen Firearms starts with a billet receiver and uses a Shilen chrome-moly barrel with a 1-in-10-inch twist. There was no threading on the test rifle, just a nicely crowned muzzle. Like the BN36, the BN308 uses



# DISTANCE

## LONG-RANGE ACCURACY with a .308 PUNCH!

a direct-impingement gas system. The bolt and carrier are made out of an incredibly high grade of steel just like its larger versions. Made from the same steel used for the gears in Formula One race car transmissions, it is some of the strongest you can get. Takedown for cleaning is the same as most AR rifles.

Bolt manipulation is taken care of with a knob attached

to the bolt. Fitted on the right side, it is easy to access and was very smooth in operation. The rifle also utilizes a shortened DPMS .308 AR-type buffer tube. While it is shipped with a Command Arms stock, any compatible AR stock can be easily installed. The forend is clean, with multiple vents to lower weight and increase cooling. Mounting holes along both sides and the bottom

facilitate rail attachment as desired. A nicely matched top rail provides pretty much one continuous rail for optics or night-vision devices.

My test rifle was supplied with a Hiperfire Hipertouch trigger. Having used these triggers extensively, they offer very low trigger weights without light primer strike issues. The unique design increases hammer fall while lowering

trigger weight. It means you get a crisp precision trigger that is reliable with most any ammunition.

Shipped with both 10- and 20-round Magpul PMAGs, the BN308 uses the standard SR25/DPMS-pattern magazines. It will also work with the X Products X-25 50-round drum magazine.

Leupold's proven Mark 4 LR/T 4.5-14x50mm scope

Noreen Firearms' BN308 is ready to push the .308 Winchester to its limits with sub-MOA results! Shown with a Leupold 4.5-14x50mm Mark 4 scope.

**“ If you want a truly accurate rifle with...complete reliability, then put the BN308 on your list. ”**



## Specifications

## NOREEN FIREARMS BN308

<b>Caliber:</b>	.308 Winchester/7.62mm
<b>Barrel:</b>	22 inches
<b>OA Length:</b>	42 inches
<b>Weight:</b>	8 pounds (empty)
<b>Stock:</b>	Collapsible
<b>Sights:</b>	None
<b>Action:</b>	Direct impingement semi-auto
<b>Finish:</b>	Matte black
<b>Capacity:</b>	10+1, 20+1
<b>MSRP:</b>	\$1,799



was attached using a set of Seekins Precision 30mm rings. Seekins Precision rings are very solid, very clean and add very little weight. The standard duplex reticle has been swapped out for a TS-32 MOA reticle by the Leupold Custom Shop. For those not interested in making the move to metric, this reticle eliminates the need for math conversions when ranging or holding over. The bottom stadia line provides 32 MOA of adjustment in 1-MOA increments. Horizontal stadia lines provide 13 MOA in either direction. Nestled below that line is an array of dots at 2-MOA increments for fast follow-up shots or wind holds. Using matching 0.25-MOA turrets, you can use them or the reticle without having to convert anything from mils (metric).

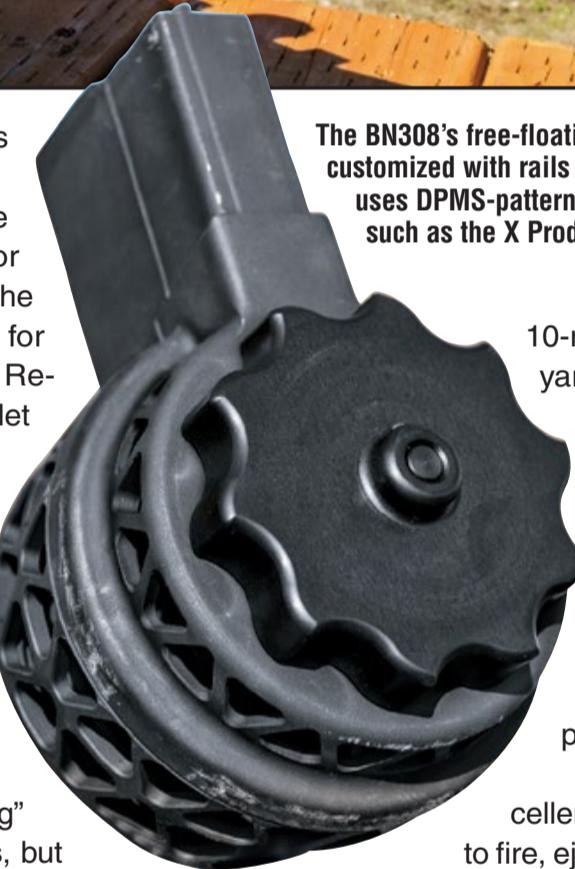
## LONG-RANGE KNOCKOUT

Previous testing of the Bad News .338 Lapua was a pleasant surprise. As someone who is skeptical when it comes to precision accuracy with an AR, I found that rifle to be very accurate. Testing the BN308 provided even more satisfaction and surprise.

My best group using Federal's 168-grain Gold Medal Match was one large hole measuring a mere 0.34 inches. Half-inch groups were the norm, with nothing reaching 0.75 inches. Cold bores were dead-on, with negligible change or difference in the confirming group. Hiperfire's Hipertouch trigger really helps here; it is crisp and averaged a measured pull in the 3-pound range. After reacquainting myself with a single-stage trigger, it allowed for some very solid accuracy. Groups were all fired from a bag off a bench, which is not my best position, so

suffice it to say that this thing is accurate.

Noreen's rifles have never been known for being featherweights. The company builds rifles for hard use, not display. Receivers are built from billet with strength in mind, not looks. Still, shooting it from off-hand was not noticeably less pleasant than most AR rifles in this caliber. It balances well, even with the 22-inch barrel. I'm not sure you will be "driving" the rifle between targets, but this was not designed for 3-Gun competitions. Resting it like a precision rifle, the flat and large handguard provides excellent stability. Accuracy from a kneeling position was excellent, with a few



The BN308's free-floating handguard can be customized with rails as needed. The lower uses DPMS-pattern mags and drums such as the X Products X-25 (left).

10-round groups at 50 yards staying under 3 inches. Even at 100 yards wringing the lollipop steel was easy while kneeling. This rifle is very comfortable to shoot from unsupported positions.

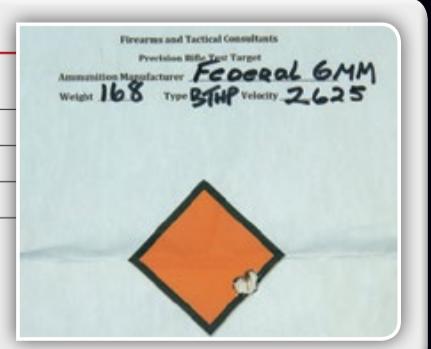
Reliability was excellent, with no failures to fire, eject or extract. Most ammunition used was match grade, but quite a bit of FMJ from various brands was used with great effect. Firing from prone, resting on the magazine in the dirt, never caused an issue. All of my

## Performance

## NOREEN FIREARMS BN308

Load	Velocity	Accuracy
Federal Gold Medal Match 168 BTHP	2,625	0.34
Federal Gold Medal Match 178 BTHP	2,560	0.50
Silver State Armory 168 HP	2,460	0.47
Silver State Armory 175 HP	2,443	0.42

*Bullet weight measured in grains, velocity in fps by chronograph and accuracy in inches for three 5-round groups at 100 yards.*



various SR25-pattern magazines worked fine, including both DPMS and LaRue metal magazines. It also works very well with the X Products drum mags, as both the standard and skeletonized models fit, dropped free and functioned perfectly.

## LAST SHOTS

My career as a police marksman started with a mil-lined reticle and turrets in MOA. Ranging in mils requires you to convert the distance to inches before moving your turrets. While a pain, it was certainly doable. Reticles graduated in MOA were rudimentary to nonexistent, and turrets in mils were rare.

The times have changed and most (myself included) are moving to all metric. For some that move has been difficult, especially having spent years using MOA. My partner is a perfect example. Having been a police marksman for a couple decades, it was not an easy transition. Leupold's TS-32 is the perfect solution. It took me a while to move back but remained simple. Ranging known targets



The lower receiver is fitted with a finger-grooved pistol grip from Mission First Tactical.

out to 500 yards was pretty fast and precise. Engaging steel at that range was equally as simple. Mounted in the second focal plane, ranging is only accurate at

14-power, but it did not hinder hits out to 500 yards on silhouette steel at 10-power. It was also possible to use the lower portion to observe the splash on a miss, move the reticle over and get a second-shot hit. You're probably not going to see me move back, but for those searching for a simple and affordable scope with everything in MOA, this is about perfect.

Testing Noreen's rifles is always fun. They are a bit different, and they never seem to disappoint. It's enjoyable to see rifles built for shooting, not marketing or display. If you want a truly accurate rifle with solid ergonomics, solid build quality, and complete reliability, then put the BN308 on your list. **BG**

## FOR MORE INFO CONTACT

### Noreen Firearms

onlylongrange.com; 406-338-2200

### Leupold

leupold.com; 800-538-7653

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you can follow is the one you make.*

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Ammunition

# SUPPORT FIELD GEAR



BY ROBERT A. SADOWSKI

**Support gear is comprised of small details** like triggers, charging handles, cases and sling swivel adapters. These are the parts you don't normally think of when setting up an AR, but they can help you run your carbine or rifle better, whether you shoot competitively, hunt or use an AR for home defense. Here is some gear to maximize your weapon's potential and reliability.



**DIAMONDHEAD  
T-BRAKE MUZZLE  
COMPENSATOR**



**BARRETT REC7 6.8  
GEN 2 MAGAZINE**



**ALEXANDER ARMS  
HIGH-CAPACITY  
6.5 GRENDEL MAGAZINE**



**CHAMBER-VIEW AR-15**

**CALDWELL PIC RAIL  
GO-PRO MOUNT**

## 5.11 TACTICAL SHOCK RIFLE CASE

The 36-inch-long Shock Rifle Case provides protection for your AR with a rugged 600D polyester outer shell that repels moisture. The padded 300D polyester interior features a retention system so your weapon won't shift in transit. The case features adjustable shoulder straps for backpack mode, or the straps can be stowed when using the carry handles. The Shock Rifle Case is available in Sandstone, DoubleTap and black. (511tactical.com; 866-451-1726)

## ALEXANDER ARMS HIGH-CAPACITY 6.5 GRENDEL MAGAZINE

Always an innovator with the 6.5 Grendel cartridge, Alexander Arms offers a high-performance, 24-round magazine made of heavy-gauge steel. The magazine features anti-tilt and self-leveling followers, and the magazine's protective coating has been put through the rigors of the military's salt spray testing for 96 hours straight. The magazine spring uses upgraded spring steel for increased reliability and feeding. (alexanderarms.com; 540-639-8356)

## BARRETT REC7 6.8 GEN 2 MAGAZINE

Finding a reliable, high-capacity 6.8 SPC magazine is no longer an issue since the Barrett REC7 6.8 Gen 2 magazine was designed to deliver optimum performance and a 30-round capacity. The magazine is constructed of steel, so it can endure hard use and is also corrosion resistant. (barrett.net; 615-896-2938)

## CALDWELL PIC RAIL GO-PRO MOUNT

Need proof to support your bragging rights? The Pic Rail Go-Pro Mount allows you to attach a Go-Pro camera to a weapon's Picatinny rail so you can capture all the action. The quick-detach mount allows the camera bracket to be removed for carrying or transport. The adjustable brackets allow you to get the angle you want and quickly lock the camera in place. (btibrands.com; 573-445-9200)

## CHAMBER-VIEW AR-15

Safety is important, and the Chamber-View AR-15 Type is a large, bright orange safety block made of 100-percent silicone that instantly makes bystanders aware of your AR's status. The flexible safety block is easy to insert into the ejection port of any .223/5.56mm or 6.8 SPC AR rifle or carbine. (chamber-view.com; 603-864-8999)

## DIAMONDHEAD T-BRAKE MUZZLE COMPENSATOR

The T-Brake is designed to work with 5.56mm and 7.62mm barrels to significantly reduce muzzle climb and felt recoil. Made of hardened steel, the T-Brake uses a triangular shape to create more surface area on the bottom portion of the compensator to apply downward pressure and reduce muzzle climb. (diamondhead-usa.com; 413-739-6970)



# SUPPORT & FIELD GEAR

## ENFIELD RIFLE COMPANY LOWER IN A JAR

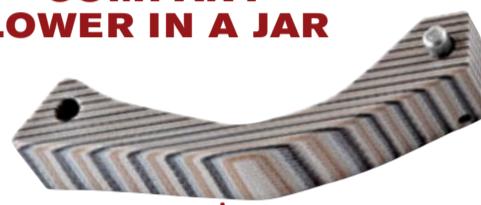
All the parts required to make a lower sing are packaged in this jar—trigger, magazine release, selector lever, pistol grip, springs and more. Enfield Rifle Company also upgrades the included trigger to take out the grainy creep that can be found in other parts kits. Expect the single-stage trigger to have a 2- to 3-pound pull weight. ([enfieldrifleco.com](http://enfieldrifleco.com); 706-490-0573)



## GEMTECH SUPPRESSED BOLT CARRIER

The drop-in replacement Suppressed Bolt Carrier is designed to increase the reliability of suppressed AR-platform firearms. The adjustable bolt carrier allows operators to choose between suppressed and unsuppressed settings without any permanent modifications to the firearm. Added benefits include a reduction in carrier speed and less felt recoil, bringing the cyclic rate of the suppressed rifle down to unsuppressed levels. ([gemtech.com](http://gemtech.com); 208-939-7222)

## ENFIELD RIFLE COMPANY LOWER IN A JAR



## GEMTECH SUPPRESSED BOLT CARRIER

## HAZARD 4 OVERWATCH PACK

The Overwatch roll-pack is a well-sized backpack suitable for transporting a lot of different gear, including a rifle. The pack features a thermoformed back panel, a thermoformed cap to protect sunglasses, large organizer pockets, a removable, MOLLE-compatible belt and sleeves that unroll to allow for the vertical carry of rifles of various lengths. ([hazard4.com](http://hazard4.com); 626-344-1454)

## HOGUE CONTOUR TRIGGERGUARD

Hogue uses G10 material to create an oversized triggerguard for AR-15 rifles and carbines. The triggerguard replaces a standard triggerguard in minutes with its easy-to-install design. The unit's oversized bow allows more room when operating a weapon with gloved hands. These triggerguards are available in dark earth, red lava, blue lava, pink lava, solid black and green. ([hogueinc.com](http://hogueinc.com); 800-438-4747)



## HAZARD 4 OVERWATCH PACK

## LANCER ADAPTIVE MAGWELL

Machined from 6061-T6 aluminum, the Adaptive Magwell is designed to fit mil-spec 5.56mm AR weapons. This easy-to-install unit increases the diameter of the magazine well and thereby increases the speed with which the weapon can be reloaded. ([lancer-systems.com](http://lancer-systems.com); 610-973-2600)



## MAGPUL PMAG D-60

Feed the machine with this 60-round, 5.56mm PMAG D-60 magazine for AR-15/M4-compatible weapons. The polymer PMAG D-60 drum magazine is durable, lightweight and reliable. The drum allows for prone firing and features a rear window for instant capacity indication. ([magpul.com](http://magpul.com); 877-462-4785)

## LANCER ADAPTIVE MAGWELL

## PRESENT ARMS GUNNER'S MOUNT

The Gunner's Mount is a convenient platform for maintaining, assembling and disassembling AR-style rifles as well as other weapons. The unit can be bolted to a workbench, and the numerous pockets help keep small parts stowed. Made of non-marring synthetic polymer, a magazine block allows an AR to be mounted and secured for a variety of maintenance and cleaning procedures. ([presentarmsinc.com](http://presentarmsinc.com); 413-575-4656)



## PRESENT ARMS GUNNER'S MOUNT



**QUICK FIRE QF600  
AR-15 RIFLE CASE**

## QUICK FIRE QF600 AR-15 RIFLE CASE

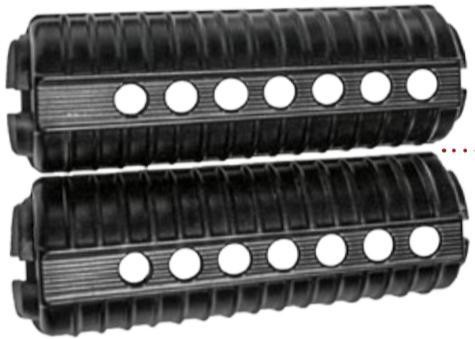
This hard-sided, double-walled case comes with interlocking fingers at the parting line to help stabilize the case if dropped. The interior features military-grade, chemical-resistant, closed-cell foam with a universal cavity cut out to fit an AR rifle or carbine. Additional cutouts accommodate magazines and other gear. The case has two molded-in padlock holes for security. Measuring 43.5 by 18 by 7 inches, the case weighs 18 pounds. (quickfirecases.com; 800-819-4245)



**SECUREIT TACTICAL  
FAST BOX HARRIER**

## SECUREIT TACTICAL FAST BOX HARRIER

Bolt the Fast Box Harrier to the inside of your vehicle's trunk or the bed of your truck to create a hidden storage space for your AR. The size of the unit is 40 by 6.5 by 13 inches, making it well suited for an AR-15 equipped with an optic and a 30-round magazine. Made of all-welded steel with a protective pad inside, the Fast Box Harrier uses an electronic lock with a key override along with a three-point locking system to make sure your weapon stays secure. (secureittactical.com; 800-651-8835)



**TNW  
FIREARMS  
GAS  
PISTON  
SYSTEM  
KIT**

**SUREFIRE 3P ELIMINATOR 556**



**TAC-CON 3MR  
TRIGGER  
ASSEMBLY**

## SUREFIRE 3P ELIMINATOR 556

The three-prong 3P Eliminator 556 flash suppressor is a patent-pending design that reduces muzzle flash typically greater than 99 percent when compared to a plain muzzle. The unit fits M4-style weapons and variants with 1/2x28 muzzle threads. Made from stainless steel bar stock, the robust tines are built to withstand the rigors of combat and whatever environmental abuse it may encounter along the way. MSRP: \$59.00. (surefire.com; 800-828-8809)

## TAC-CON 3MR TRIGGER ASSEMBLY

The 3MR trigger offers three modes of fire control: safe, semi-auto and Tac-Con's patented assisted reset mode, which offers the fastest reset possible. In semi-auto and "reset mode" positions, the trigger has a non-adjustable, 4.5-pound pull. This is a drop-in unit for ARs with right-handed, left-handed or ambidextrous selectors. (tacconusa.com; 623-282-1881)

## TNW FIREARMS GAS PISTON SYSTEM KIT

Retrofitting your AR's direct gas impingement system to a piston-operated system is simple with this kit for standard carbine-length ARs. The kit includes all the parts and instructions to convert an AR to a piston system so it will have less carbon buildup on the bolt carrier assembly and internal moving parts. (tnwfirearms.com)

## UTG COMBAT OPERATION RC SERIES GUN CASE

Whether you carry it like a pack or by the handles, the Combat Operation RC Series Gun Case is well padded with over 2.6 inches of high-density foam inside that can hold up to two rifles at a time. Numerous large pockets and a web MOLLE system allow you to store additional gear. The case's overall length is 42 inches, and it is available in black, OD green, Flat Dark Earth and Army digital camo. (leapers.com; 734-542-1500)

## VOODOO INNOVATIONS LIFEKOAT LOW MASS BOLT CARRIER

The VooDoo Innovations LifeCoat Low Mass Bolt Carrier is 20-percent lighter than a standard bolt carrier, which translates to less reciprocal mass, thus reducing felt recoil. The bolt carrier is full-auto rated on direct impingement systems. It is compatible with mil-spec and commercial upper receivers and their associated components. (voodooinnovations.com; 813-867-4242)



**UTG COMBAT OPERATION  
RC SERIES GUN CASE**

# DIRECTORY OF MANUFACTURERS

AAC; advanced-armament.com; 770-925-9988	Diamondhead; diamondhead-usa.com; 413-739-6970	ProMag; promagindustries.com; 800-438-2547
Adaptive Tactical; adaptivetactical.com; 208-442-8000	Doublestar; star15.com; 888-736-7725	Proof Research; proofresearch.com; 406-756-9290
Aimpoint; aimpoint.com; 877-246-7646	DPMS; dpmsinc.com; 800-578-3767	Quick Fire; quickfirecases.com; 800-819-4245
Alexander Arms; alexanderarms.com; 540-639-8356	Elitelron; eliteiron.com; 406-244-0234	Redfield; redfield.com; 877-798-9686
American Built Arms; abarms.com	Enfield Rifle Co.; enfieldrifleco.com; 706-490-0573	Rock River Arms; rockriverarms.com; 866-980-7625
American Spirit Arms; americanspiritarms.com; 480-367-9540	EOTech; eotech-inc.com; 888-368-4656	Ruger; ruger.com
Armalite; armalite.com; 800-336-0184	Ergo Grips; ergogrips.net; 877-281-3783	Safety Harbor Firearms; safetyharborfirearms.com; 727-726-2500
Armasight; armasight.com; 888-959-2259	FN America; fnhusa.com; 703-288-3500	SecureIt; secureittactical.com; 800-651-8835
A.R.M.S.; armsmounts.com; 508-584-7816	Geissele; geissele.com; 610-272-2060	Seekins Precision; seekinsprecision.com; 208-743-3400
AT; americantactical.us; 800-290-0065	Gemtech; gemtech.com; 208-939-7222	Sig Sauer; sigsauer.com; 603-610-3000
Barska; barska.com; 888-666-6769	GG&G; gggaz.com; 800-380-2540	Smith & Wesson; smith-wesson.com; 800-331-0852
Beretta; beretta.com	Guntec; guntecusa.com; 480-478-4517	Spuhr; spuhr.biz
Black Rain Ordnance; blackrainordnance.com; 888-836-2620	Hazard 4; hazard4.com; 626-344-1454	Stag Arms; stagarms.com; 860-229-9994
BlackHawk; blackhawk.com; 800-379-1732	Heckler & Koch; hk-usa.com; 706-568-1906	Stark; starkequipment.com; 603-556-7772
Blackheart International; bhigear.com; 304-622-7000	Hogue; getgrip.com; 800-438-4747	Steyr Arms; steyrarms.com; 205-417-8644
Bravo Company USA; bravocompanyusa.com; 877-272-8626	Kahles; kahles.at	Streamlight; streamlight.com; 800-523-7488
Boyd's; boydsgunstocks.com; 605-996-5011	Lancer; lancer-systems.com; 610-973-2600	Sun Optics; sunopticsusa.com; 817-783-6001
Browe; browe-inc.com; 800-407-3150	LaserLyte; laserlyte.com; 928-649-3201	SureFire; surefire.com; 800-828-8809
Brownells; brownells.com; 800-741-0015	LaserMax; lasermax.com; 800-527-3703	Tac-Con; tacconusa.com; 623-282-1881
Burris Optics; burrisoptics.com; 970-356-1670	Law Tactical; lawtactical.com; 267-209-0529	TacStar; tacstar.com; 800-225-9626
Bushmaster; bushmaster.com; 800-883-6229	Leupold; leupold.com; 503-538-7653	TAPCO; tapco.com; 800-554-1445
Bushnell; bushnell.com; 800-423-3537	Lewis Machine & Tool; lewismachine.net; 309-787-7151	Thordsen Customs; thordsencustoms.com; 650-588-3700
Caldwell; battenfeldtechnologies.com; 573-445-9200	Luth-AR; luth-ar.com; 763-263-0166	Thunder Beast Arms; thunderbeastarms.com; 307-287-2052
Chamber-View; chamber-view.com; 603-864-8999	Magpul; magpul.com; 877-462-4785	TNW Firearms; tnwfirearms.com
Christensen Arms; christensenarms.com; 888-517-8855	Mega Arms; megaarms.com; 877-857-5372	Trijicon; trijicon.com; 800-338-0563
CMC Triggers; cmctriggers.com; 817-563-6611	Midwest Industries; midwestindustriesinc.com; 262-896-6780	Troy; troyind.com; 866-788-6412
Colt; colt.com; 800-962-2658	Mission First Tactical; missionfirsttactical.com; 267-704-0001	UTG; leapers.com; 734-542-1500
Command Arms; commandarms.com; 215-949-9944	NcStar; ncstar.com; 866-627-8278	Viking Tactics; vikingtactics.com; 910-987-5983
Crimson Trace; crimsontrace.com; 800-442-2406	Nightforce; nightforceoptics.com; 208-476-9814	Viridian; viridiangreenlaser.com; 800-990-9390
Daniel Defense; danieldefense.com; 866-554-4867	NiteSite; nitesite.com	Viator; viator.com; 520-408-1944
Dark Storm Industries; dark-storm.com; 800-963-7700	Noreen Firearms; onlylongrange.com; 406-338-2200	Voodoo Innovations; voodooinnovations.com; 813-867-4242
Dead Air Armament; deadairsilencers.com; 877-892-7544	Patriot Ordnance Factory; pof-usa.com; 623-561-9572	Weaver; weaveroptics.com; 800-379-1732
Dead Ringer; deadringerhunting.com; 585-355-4685	Plinker Arms; plinkertactical.com	Wilcox; wilcoxind.com; 603-431-1331
Delta P Design; deltapdeisgn.com; 503-487-0007	PNW Arms; pnwarms.com; 855-769-2767	Wilson Combat; wilsoncombat.com; 800-955-4856
Del-Ton; del-ton.com; 910-645-2172	Precision Reflex Inc.; precisionreflex.com; 419-629-2603	Windham Weaponry; windhamweaponry.com; 855-808-1888
	Present Arms; presentarmsinc.com; 413-575-4656	X Products; xproducts.com; 503-960-3615
	Primary Weapons Systems; primaryweapons.com; 208-344-5217	Yankee Hill Machine; yhm.net; 877-892-6533
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